### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

#### Norfolk Division

In the Matter of

ePLUS INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 2:09cv232-HCM-TEM

PERFECT COMMERCE, INC., SCIQUEST, INC., LAWSON SOFTWARE, INC., and VERIAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,

**Defendants** 

## DECLARATION OF HARRY F. MANBECK, JR. IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF ePLUS INC.'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY PROCEEDINGS

1. Harry F. Manbeck, Jr., declare and state as follows:

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Harry F. Manbeck, Jr. I have been retained by counsel for Plaintiff ePlus, Inc. ("ePlus") as a consultant with respect to the litigation currently before the Court in the above-captioned matter. I have been asked by ePlus to consider certain materials relating to the reexamination of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,683 ("the '683 Patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,505,172 ("the '172 Patent") (collectively "the ePlus patents").

#### II. BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS

2. I am a former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States, having been appointed by former President George Herbert Walker Bush. I served in this position from March 1990 to May 1992. I am a member of the

Bar of the District of Columbia and other jurisdictions, and I am registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO"). I am currently a partner in the firm of Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck. My offices are located at 1425 K. Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20005. A copy of my *curriculum vitae* is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 3. Prior to serving as Assistant Secretary and Commissioner of the PTO, I practiced patent law for over thirty-five years. At the time that I assumed those offices, I was the General Patent Counsel for the General Electric Company. I joined General Electric as a test engineer in 1949, became a patent attorney in 1955, and I advanced to become General Patent Counsel in 1970, a position that I held for twenty years. As the Commissioner of Patents, the General Patent Counsel and in my other positions at General Electric, and in my present practice I have had extensive experience with patent practice and procedures, as well as the policies and practices that were applied by the PTO to the examination of patent applications. In particular, I have considerable expertise in the analysis and interpretation of events occurring during the prosecution of patent applications before the PTO, including reexaminations.
- 4. I receive compensation from *e*Plus at my standard hourly rate, currently \$700, for every hour that I devote to providing the expert analysis and testimony requested of me in this case. My travel and incidental expenses related to my engagement as an expert witness are reimbursed by *e*Plus as well. No part of my compensation depends upon the outcome of this matter.
- 5. For purposes of forming my opinions and conclusions, I have considered a variety of materials. In particular, I have considered the patents at issue in this matter, the '683 Patent, the '172 Patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,055,516 ("the '516 Patent"). I have also considered the

reexamination file history of the '683 Patent and the request for *inter partes* reexamination of the '172 Patent, as well as other documents as indicated below.<sup>1</sup>

#### III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 6. I understand and am informed that *e*Plus filed the Complaint against Defendants in the Alexandria Division of this Court on May 19, 2009. I understand that the Court immediately transferred the action to the Norfolk Division of this Court. I understand that each of the Defendants has been served with the Complaint in this matter, and that each of them have filed an Answer. In addition, I understand and am informed that the parties have stipulated to the dismissal of Verian Technologies, Inc. from this action. I understand that the Court has set a trial date for before January 28, 2010. I understand that the typical time until trial for a case pending before this Court is less than one year. I understand that on July 14, 2009, Defendants Perfect Commerce, LLC, Lawson Software, Inc., and SciQuest, Inc. filed a motion to stay this litigation pending the outcome of the reexaminations of the '683 and '172 Patents. I have reviewed Defendants' motion and brief.
- 7. *e*Plus is a Delaware corporation having a principal place of business at 13595 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, Virginia. I understand and am informed that *e*Plus has previously litigated the '683, '516 and '172 Patents. Those previous actions were heard in the Alexandria and Richmond divisions of this Court.
- 8. During the previous litigations, claims of the patents were construed by this Court. This prior litigation includes:
  - ePlus, Inc. v. Ariba, Civil Action No. 1:04cv612 ("Ariba");
  - ePlus, Inc. v. SAP America, Inc., et al., Civil Action No. 3:05cv281 (JRS) ("SAP").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The '516 Patent claims are not the subject of reexamination.

- 9. I am informed that both previous litigations ended favorably for *e*Plus through a settlement and license, in the case of *Ariba* following a favorable adjudication on the merits at trial. I also understand that one of the Defendants in the instant action Verian Technologies, Inc., has entered into a settlement agreement with *e*Plus.
- 10. The '683 Patent issued on February 8, 2000. The '516 Patent issued on April 25, 2000. The '172 Patent issued on January 7, 2003. The ePlus Patents contain claims directed to electronic sourcing systems and methods performed by electronic sourcing systems. The '683 Patent will expire on February 8, 2017. The '516 and '172 Patents will both expire on August 10, 2014.
- The disclosure describes several embodiments of electric sourcing systems and methods performed by such systems. An electronic sourcing system, according to the patents, is an electronic system for use by a prospective buyer to locate and find items to requisition and then purchase from sources. The electronic sourcing and procurement systems and methods automate internal corporate purchasing processes, resulting in considerable savings in time and expense. Corporate customer users may search for items for sale from multiple selected electronic catalogs (each associated with a supplier source), determine whether a selected matching item found in the catalog search is available in the supplier's inventory, find related items available from other suppliers; and build requisitions from the selected matching items found in the catalog search(es). If a requisition is approved, the system then generates electronic purchase orders to each different supplier identified in the approved requisition. *See, e.g.*, '683 Patent, Col. 3:3-24.

12. All three of the patents-in-suit derive priority from Application Serial No. 08/288,577, filed August 10, 1994.

## IV. OVERVIEW OF EVENTS OCCURRING DURING THE REEXAMINATION OF THE '683 PATENT AND THE REQUEST FOR REEXAMINATION OF THE '172 PATENT

#### A. The '683 Patent Reexamination

- I have considered the publicly-available materials for the reexamination of certain claims of the '683 Patent, which has been assigned Reexamination No. 90/008,104 by the United States Patent & Trademark Office ("PTO") ("the '683 reexamination").
- 14. On July 17, 2006, SAP AG and SAP America, Inc. (collectively, "SAP"), requested *ex parte* reexamination of claims 26-45 of the '683 Patent. Claims 1-25 of the '683 Patent are not subject to reexamination.
- 15. On August 17, 2006, the PTO issued a Notice of Failure to Comply With *Ex*Parte Reexamination Request Filing Requirements pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.510©. The PTO pointed out several deficiencies in SAP's reexamination request.
- 16. On September 14, 2006, SAP filed an amended request for *ex parte* reexamination of the '683 Patent. On October 28, 2006, the PTO Examiner granted the Request contending that there were substantial new questions of patentability ("SNQs") raised based on 21 alleged prior art references when interpreted in 20 different ways. I am informed that all of the prior art raised in the reexamination request was raised in the *SAP* litigation.
- 17. On January 29, 2007, ePlus filed a Patent Owner's Statement responding to the Examiner's SNQs. ePlus pointed out that many of the alleged references relied upon by the PTO Examiner are not prior art because they did not pre-date the '683 Patent's priority date.

  Moreover, ePlus pointed out that several of the purported prior art references relied upon were not either patents or printed publications, but, rather, were executable computer code and screen

display printouts for allegedly reconstructed computer systems. Thus, *e*Plus contended that such materials were not permissible under the reexamination statute. In addition, several of the purported "references" relied upon for alleged anticipation grounds were actually combinations of references which did not constitute a single publication.

- 18. On February 29, 2008, the PTO Examiner issued a first Office Action in response to the Patent Owner's Statement relying on only 4 of the alleged prior art references for anticipation purposes and no longer relying on any SNQs based on alleged obviousness of the claims. The Examiner also no longer relied on any SNQs based on the executable computer code and screen display printouts.
- 19. On May 29, 2008, ePlus submitted a response to the February 29, 2008 Office Action with a supporting declaration from a technical expert. The response contained dozens of pages of argument distinguishing claims 26-45 from the four cited references.
- 20. On January 8, 2009, the PTO Examiner issued a final Office Action maintaining his rejection of claims 26-45 based on the four allegedly anticipatory references.
- 21. On March 6, 2009, *e*Plus filed a Notice of Appeal to the PTO's Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("BPAI").
- 22. On May 6, 2009, ePlus filed an Appeal Brief with the BPAI appealing each pending ground of rejection. The PTO Examiner has yet to file an Answer to ePlus's Appeal Brief.
- 23. I note that *e*Plus has not amended any of claims 26-45 of the '683 Patent during the course of the pending reexamination. Nor has *e*Plus added any new claims.
- 24. I also note that at least two of the Examiner's pending grounds for rejection appear to be based upon a legally improper claim construction.

- 25. Independent claim 26 is illustrative. That claim recites the following:
  - 26. A method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least two product catalogs on a database containing data relating to items associated with the respective sources;

selecting the product catalogs to search;

searching for matching items among the selected product catalogs;

building a requisition using data relating to selected matching items and their associated source(s);

processing the requisition to generate one or more purchase orders for the selected matching items; and

determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.

- 26. According to the disclosed methods, a computer is provided with a catalog database comprised of at least two product catalogs, each associated with a respective source. '683 Patent, Col. 4:35-37. In this context, a "catalog" is an organized collection of items and associated source information. The catalog item information typically includes such information as part number, price, catalog number, vendor name or ID, as well as textual information and images of or relating to the items. '683 Patent, Col. 4:37-41.
- 27. The disclosed methods facilitate searching multiple catalogs associated with different sources, *e.g.*, suppliers, vendors or distributors of products or services. '683 Patent, Col. 4:45-46. The disclosed methods permit the customer end-user to select the catalogs to be searched for a needed item. '683 Patent, Col. 9:52-55. The electronic sourcing methods permit the customer to then search the selected catalogs to identify needed items from different sources. Matching items found in conducting searches of the multiple catalogs may be selected for

inclusion in an electronic requisition built by the system. '683 Patent, Col. 10:2-43. As discussed in more detail below, "requisitioning" means "requesting a needed item." Thus a "requisition" is the "formal written request to purchase something needed."

- 28. Importantly, the disclosed electronic sourcing methods also provide for automatically generating one or more purchase orders from the electronic requisition. '683 Patent, Col. 15:20-49. In this context, a "purchase order" is "a commission or instruction to buy something." Thus, for example, after a requisition has been approved, the electronic sourcing system generates one or more electronic purchase orders from the requisition, for example, generating a purchase order to transmit to each separate source associated with the items included in the requisition. *Id*.
- 29. The disclosed methods are also used to determine the availability of a selected matching catalog item (e.g., an item found in a search of the selected catalog(s)) in inventory of the associated source of the item. '683 Patent, Col. 14:4-20.
- During reexamination, as with original examination, although the PTO is to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation, such interpretation must take into account any definitions presented in the patent specification and must be consistent with the interpretation that a person of ordinary skill in the art would reach. *In re American Academy of Science Tech. Center*, 367 F.3d 1359, 1364 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (cited in *In re Icon Health & Fitness, Inc.*, 496 F.3d 1374, 1378-79 (Fed. Cir. 2007)); *In re Cartright*, 165 F.3d 1353, 1358 (Fed. Cir. 1999).
- 31. The PTO Examiner, however, appears to have interpreted the claim term "requisition" to mean "an order for something" notwithstanding that the patent claims and specification explicitly require and disclose a separate step of building a "requisition" that occurs prior to the step of processing the requisition to generate one or more "purchase orders." The

'683 Patent specification clearly describes that a "requisition" is "a formal request to purchase something." This step can occur before a user has selected a source from which to purchase a desired item, for example. '683 Patent, Col. 13:63-Col. 14:65. The "requisition" is described in the patent as a document internal to the purchasing organization. It is not transmitted to a supplier. Instead, it may be submitted internally for approval prior to the generation of any purchase order. *See*, *e.g.*, '683 Patent, Col. 15:10-22. Once the "requisition" is approved, it can be converted to one or more purchase orders by the system. *See*, *e.g.*, '683 Patent, Col. 15:20-22. Thus, the specification distinguishes between a request internal to the purchasing organization to purchase something (requisition) and the formal contractual agreement to purchase something which is sent from the purchaser to the supplier (the purchase order).

32. Therefore, in my opinion, the Examiner's construction of "requisition" as "an order for something" is incorrect and not sustainable. I believe that each of the Examiner's grounds for rejection which rely upon this improper claim construction is not likely to be sustained by the BPAI.

#### B. The Request for *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the '172 Patent

- 33. I have also considered the request for *inter partes* reexamination of the claims of the '172 Patent, which has been assigned Reexamination No. 95/000,487 by the PTO.
- 34. On July 10, 2009, Defendant Lawson Software, Inc. ("Lawson") requested *inter* partes reexamination of the claims of the '172 Patent before the PTO.
- 35. *Inter partes* reexamination is different from *ex parte* reexamination in that the third party who requested reexamination has rights to participate in the conduct of the reexamination, including commenting on the Patent Owner's responses to Office Actions, and, like the Patent Owner, has rights to appeal the conclusions of the examiner to the BPAI and to the Federal Circuit.

- 36. Upon my initial review of Lawson's Request for Reexamination, I noted several deficiencies which may delay or preclude the granting of the Request.
- 37. For example, the Request fails to explain for each and every claim how the cited materials meet the claim limitations. Nor does the Request identify and explain all combinations of the alleged prior art references that Lawson asserts render the claims invalid as obvious. The PTO regulations require that a request for reexamination include a statement pointing out each alleged substantial new question of patentability based on the cited patents and printed publications, and a detailed explanation of the pertinency and manner of applying the patents and printed publications to every claim for which reexamination is requested. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.915(b)(3).
- 38. Another example of a deficiency in Lawson's Request is that the Request relies on materials that are not patents or printed publications such as executable computer code and screen printouts using such code. Such materials are not permissible bases for a reexamination as 35 U.S.C. § 301(a) limits the art that may be cited in a reexamination request to prior art patents and printed publications. Similar materials cited by SAP with respect to the request for reexamination of the '683 Patent were not relied upon by the PTO Examiner as bases for rejections.
- 39. Indeed, it appears that the PTO concurs with my assessment that Lawson's Request for *Inter Partes* Reexamination of the '172 Patent is defective. There is an indication on the PTO's Patent Application Information Retrieval ("PAIR") database that the PTO has issued a Notice of Incomplete Reexam Request, thus precluding a filing date from being accorded to the Request. *See* Exhibit B attached. The actual Notice is not yet available so the bases for the PTO's rejection of Lawson's Request are not yet known. Lawson will be given an opportunity

to cure the defects by filing an amended Request. Until the defects are cured, however, the Reexam Request is not accorded a filing date and not put into the queue for review for a decision on whether to grant or deny the Request.

#### V. ADDITIONAL STEPS FOR INTER PARTES REEXAMINATION

- 40. Attached as Exhibit C is a procedural flowchart taken directly from the United States Patent and Trademark Office's ("PTO") Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP") showing the various steps inherent in *inter partes* reexamination proceedings.

  Attached as Exhibit D is a chart correlating the steps in the flowchart of Exhibit C to the relevant statutes or regulations and the time periods associated with each step in the flowchart. Attached as Exhibit E is a table of statistics issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit indicating the median time to disposition in cases terminated after hearing or submission.
- 41. There is no deadline, either statutory or under the rules, for the completion of any phase of either *inter partes* or *ex parte* reexamination once the reexamination has been declared and the first office action has been mailed.

#### VI. PENDENCY RANGES IN INTER PARTES REEXAMINATIONS

- 42. The statistics discussed below were calculated based on a July 2009 review conducted of all *inter partes* reexaminations filed since November 1999, when the PTO established this type of reexamination. The PTO maintains this public information on the PAIR database of its www.uspto.gov website. To review individual records, the user enters the reexamination control number into the PAIR search screen to retrieve the record. *See* chart attached as Exhibit F hereto.
  - 43. The *inter partes* reexamination data points collected for these calculations were:

- (1) Filing Date: The date that the PTO assigned a Request for Reexamination its filing date if it meets the filing requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.915.
- (2) Reexamination Request Determination Date: The date the PTO issued an Order granting or denying the Request for Reexamination.
  - (3) Initial Office Action: The date the PTO issued a first Office Action.
- (4) Action Closing Prosecution ("ACP"): The date the PTO issued an Action Closing Prosecution ("ACP").
- (5) Right of Appeal Notice: The date the PTO issued a Right of Appeal Notice.
- (6) BPAI Decision: The date the PTO's Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("BPAI") issued a decision on an appeal.
- (7) Federal Circuit Decision: The date the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a decision on appeal from the BPAI's Decision.
- (8) Reexamination Certificate: The date the PTO issued a Reexamination Certificate that concludes the reexam process.
- 44. The PTO's individual *inter partes* patent reexamination records show the following pendency ranges:

Pendency		Lowest Pendency	Highest Pendency	
(1)	Filing Date to	13 Days	6 Months	
(2)	Reexamination Order Date			
(2)	Reexamination Order Date to	13 Days	2.2 Years	
(3)	First Office Action	Ť		
(3)	First Office Action to	0.3 Years	5.2 Years	
(4)	Action Closing Prosecution			
(4)	Action Closing Prosecution to	1.9 Months	3.5 Years	
(5)	Right of Appeal Notice			
(5)	Right of Appeal Notice to	1.5 Years	3.7 Years	
(6)	BPAI Decision			
(6)	BPAI Decision to	N/A	N/A	
(7)	Federal Circuit Decision			
(7)	Federal Circuit Decision to	N/A	N/A	
(8)	Reexamination Certificate	_		

BPAI Decision to date. Two of these reexaminations addressed related patents and were consolidated for appeal. In the consolidated appeal, the BPAI reversed the Examiner's rejections and the requester has appealed the BPAI's decision to the Federal Circuit. With respect to the remaining nine proceedings, in two cases, the BPAI has issued a final decision, but the time for appeal to the Federal Circuit has not yet expired. In five proceedings, the party that lost at the BPAI did not take further action and, in two of the five, the reexamination certificate has been issued. In the remaining two proceedings, the reexaminations were remanded to the Examiner for further consideration. Thus, in the more than nine years since the *inter partes* statute was enacted, there has only been one *inter partes* reexamination that has progressed from the BPAI to the Federal Circuit. Of course, it is my understanding that even a decision by the Federal Circuit could thereafter be the subject of a petition for *certiorari* to the United States Supreme Court, which has heard a number of patent cases in the last few years.

- A6. Out of 682 *inter partes* reexaminations filed to date, over 95% received a Filing Date, 84% received a Reexamination Order, 78% received a First Office Action, 42% received an Action Closing Prosecution, 27% received a Right of Appeal Notice, and only 1.6% reached BPAI Decision (*i.e.*, the eleven described above).<sup>2</sup> Only 3.90% (*i.e.*, 15) of all *inter partes* reexaminations received a Reexamination Certificate at some point during the reexamination. In most of these cases, the patent owner simply decided to drop its opposition to the Examiner's rejections, something I am informed ePlus does not intend to do if a contested reexamination should be ordered.
- 47. Out of 682 *inter partes* Reexamination Requests filed as of the date of the above review, only 12% of the reexaminations have concluded, *i.e.*, Reexamination Certificates were issued. A Reexamination Certificate may issue following an appeal, but it can issue sooner if the Patent Owner ceases to participate in the proceedings. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2687. As discussed above, only one *inter partes* reexamination has ever proceeded through each step in the entire reexamination process in the over nine years since the inception of the *inter partes* reexamination option. And, that reexamination is still pending because it is on appeal to the Federal Circuit.
- 48. Using the pendency ranges in the above table, it is clear that *inter partes* reexaminations can and usually do extend over a period of several years. The PTO's statistics for *inter partes* reexamination pendency (Exhibit G) indicate that the average pendency for *inter partes* reexamination is 36.1 months. However, as noted above, this number simply does not reflect the average or expected pendency for cases where the patent owner fights to preserve its patent. In those cases, the actual pendency is much longer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The statistics relied on in the body of the declaration include data through July 16, 2009. Exhibit G includes some of the same categories of data but extends only to June 30, 2009.

- 49. The Institute for Progress, an independent intellectual property think tank cofounded by Kevin Rivette, former Chairman of the USPTO Public Patent Advisory Committee. released a white paper last year addressing the PTO's reexamination pendency statistics. See Exhibit H attached. In this white paper, the authors confirm that while the PTO's pendency data may be statistically accurate, it is based on the small number of *inter partes* reexaminations wherein Reexamination Certificates had issued. The Institute's white paper indicates that where the patent owner actively participates in the reexamination process rather than merely allowing it to proceed undefended, the average pendency is actually much longer than for cases where there is no appeal to the BPAI. According to the Institute's research, in cases that are appealed, the pendency is in excess of 70 months, although the data is incomplete for such cases - as I noted at Paragraph 45, only eleven cases have ever received a BPAI decision. This 70 month average pendency period further increases if either party appeals the BPAI's decision to the Federal Circuit. Based on the Federal Circuit's statistics (Exhibit E), it should take on average nearly 9 additional months to reach a final decision regarding the reexamination. However, there has been no inter partes reexamination that has ever proceeded through each step in the entire reexamination process through an appeal to the Federal Circuit in the over nine years since the inception of the *inter partes* reexamination option.
- 50. Given the fact that so few *inter partes* Reexamination Certificates have issued and the circumstances surrounding their issuance, the rate that claims were subject to cancellation or amendment in those completed *inter partes* reexaminations would not appear to be a predictable indicator of the rate of such cancellation or amendment for all *inter partes* reexaminations.

  However, the PTO's statistics regarding *ex parte* reexaminations a much larger sample size —

indicate that all claims are cancelled in such reexaminations approximately 11% of the time. *See* Exhibit I.

#### VII. EXPARTE REEXAMINATIONS

- 51. With respect to *ex parte* reexaminations, because such proceedings have been in effect since 1981 and the number of requests for *ex parte* reexaminations are far greater (9893 to date), it is difficult to track each proceeding through to ultimate conclusion in the same manner as set forth above for the *inter partes* proceedings. However, attached as Exhibit J is a procedural flowchart taken from the MPEP showing the various steps inherent in *ex parte* reexamination proceedings. Attached as Exhibit K is a chart correlating the steps of the flowchart of Exhibit J to the relevant statutes or regulations and the time periods associated with each step in the flowchart.
- 52. As is evident from the flowchart of Exhibit J and the chart of Exhibit K, the final Office Action in an *ex parte* reexamination proceeding, such as issued in the '683 Patent reexamination proceeding, is far from being a final determination as to the validity of the reexamined patent. The PTO's statistics, however, show that only 11% of the cases result in all claims being canceled. *See* Exhibit I.
- 53. After issuance of a final Office Action, the Patent Owner then has the right to appeal an Examiner's rejection in a final Office Action to the PTO's BPAI within six months. An Appeal Brief is to be filed by the Patent Owner within two months after the filing of a Notice of Appeal, as *e*Plus has done here. The Examiner is to file an Answer to the Patent Owner's Appeal Brief within two months thereafter. (The Examiner in the '683 Patent proceeding has yet to file an Answer.) In some cases, the Patent Owner may file a Reply Brief if the Examiner raises a new issue in the Answer.

- 54. Once the issues are fully briefed, the file is transferred from the Examining branch to the BPAI. The Patent Owner may file a request for an oral hearing and the oral hearing before the BPAI is typically conducted within six to twelve months after the request for oral hearing is filed. The BPAI's decision on appeal typically issues within one to three months after the oral hearing, although there is no deadline and the decision may take longer. The Patent Owner may file a request for a rehearing of any unfavorable BPAI decision within two months after receipt of the BPAI decision. The BPAI's decision on the request for rehearing typically issues within one to two months thereafter, although there is no deadline for the decision.
- 55. If the BPAI's decision remains unfavorable, the Patent Owner has the statutory right to appeal the decision within 60 days to the Federal Circuit. The Federal Circuit will set its own schedule for briefing and argument. As indicated in Exhibit E, the median time for disposition in the Federal Circuit for an appeal of a PTO decision is 8.9 months. There is no deadline by which the Federal Circuit must decide the appeal.
- 56. The PTO's statistics show an average pendency of 24.8 months for *ex parte* reexaminations, that is from the time the request is granted to the time the certificate is issued.

  See Exhibit I. Because the number of *ex parte* reexaminations is so numerous, it is impracticable to perform a similar analysis on each one, as was done for *inter partes* reexaminations.

  However, as with the pendency data for *inter partes* reexaminations, I believe that the 24.8 month average is highly skewed in favor of cases where the patent owner is not vigorously defending its patent. The overwhelming majority of cases in which a final rejection is issued are not appealed to the BPAI. Of those that are, fewer still are again appealed to the Federal Circuit.

### VIII. THE PATENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE NEAR EXPIRATION UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE REEXAMINATIONS

57. As noted above, it is likely that in the normal course both the *inter partes* reexamination of the '172 Patent, if granted, and ex parte reexamination of the '683 Patent will extend until late in the life of each patent and possibly thereafter in the case of the '172 Patent. Given that one of the rights of the patent owner is to seek a permanent injunction and exclude its competitor from infringement, ePlus will be effectively denied one of the significant remedies available to it under federal patent law. Claims are not cancelled or confirmed in reexaminations until a final action or ACP has issued, all appeals have been exhausted, and a reexamination certificate has issued. See 37 C.F.R. § 997(a) ("Upon the conclusion of an inter partes reexamination proceeding, the Director will issue a certificate in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 316..."); 35 U.S.C. § 316(a) ("In an *inter partes* reexamination proceeding...., when the time for appeal has expired or any appeal proceeding has terminated, the Director shall issue and publish a certificate canceling any claim of the patent finally determined to be unpatentable, confirming any claim of the patent determined to be patentable, and incorporating in the patent any proposed amended or new claim determined to be patentable."). See also M.P.E.P. § 2288 (Upon conclusion of the ex parte reexamination proceeding, the examiner must prepare a "Notice of Intent to Issue Ex Parte Reexamination Certificate" (NIRC) by completing form PTOL-469. If appropriate, an examiner's amendment will also be prepared. Where claims are found patentable, reasons must be given for each claim found patentable. In addition, the examiner must prepare the reexamination file so that the Office of Publications can prepare and issue a certificate in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 307 and 37 C.F.R. 1.570 setting forth the results of the reexamination proceeding and the content of the patent following the proceeding.

58. Accordingly, the date for any final cancellation or confirmation of the claims as a result of the reexaminations is likely to take years to complete, and will likely not be completed until late in the life of each patent and possibly thereafter in the case of the '172 Patent. Thus, a stay of this action pending completion of those proceedings has the effect of denying ePlus the right to exclude others from the use of its inventions.

#### IX. INTERIM FINDINGS IN REEXAMINATIONS

- 59. A reexamination proceeding, whether *ex parte* or *inter partes*, is not completed, and does not in fact make any changes to the patent under reexamination, until a reexamination certificate is issued that cancels claims, confirms claims, and/or modifies claims and/or the specification. This is so even if amendments have been accepted by the Examiner or the BPAI and even if claims have been finally rejected or finally confirmed by the Examiner or the BPAI.
- 60. The PTO is free to reconsider its initial determinations in a reexamination prior to issuing a reexamination certificate. *See Fresenius Med. Care Holdings*, 2007 WL 1655625 at \*4 (N.D. Cal. 2007).
- 61. Until a certificate is issued in a reexamination, final disposition of any reexamination proceeding is unknown, and therefore, until such a certificate issues, it remains possible that the PTO's determination in the reexamination will have no ultimate bearing on the scope or life of the patent. *See Fresenius*; *see also Texas MP3 Technologies v. Samsung Electronics*, 2007 WL 3219372 (E.D. Tex. 2007).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this May of July, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Harry F. Manbeck, Jr.

# **EXHIBIT A**

#### BIOGRAPHY HARRY F. MANBECK, JR.

Harry F. Manbeck, Jr. is an attorney-at-law and a member of the firm of Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck, P.C. The firm and Mr. Manbeck's offices are located at 1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005. From March 1990 to May 1992, he was Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States. He was nominated to these offices by President Bush on October 11, 1989 and confirmed by the Senate on March 9, 1990.

Prior to his government service, Mr. Manbeck practiced patent law for over thirty-five years and at the time of his appointment he was General Patent Counsel of the General Electric Company. He joined General Electric in 1949 and advanced to become General Patent Counsel in 1970, which position he held until becoming Commissioner. Prior to joining the General Electric Company, he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

A native of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, Mr. Manbeck graduated with Highest Honors from Lehigh University in 1949 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He received his L.L.B. with Honors from the University of Louisville in 1954. Mr. Manbeck is a member of the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky and Massachusetts bars and is admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He is also registered to practice in front of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Mr. Manbeck has served as Chairman of the Patent, Trademark and Copyright Section of the American Bar Association; President of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel; a Director of the Intellectual Property Owners, Inc.; and a Director of the Bar Association of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He is also a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Connecticut Patent Law Association. In 1984 Mr. Manbeck was awarded the Whitney North Seymour Medal of the American Arbitration Association for contributions made to the process of arbitration in the United States.

Mr. Manbeck is married to the former Julia P. McCarthy and they reside in McLean, Virginia.

### PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED BY Harry F. Manbeck, Jr.

- 1. "Voluntary Arbitration of Patent Disputes The Background to 35 U.S.C. 294", AIPLA Quarterly J. #4, pp. 268-273, Fall 1983.
- 2. "Entering Our Third Century", Keynote Address Before the American Bar Association Section of Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law, Chicago, Illinois, August 4, 1990, 72 JPOS 1177 (1990).
- 3. "The Evolution and Issue of New Rule 56", 20 AIPLA Quarterly J., #3 & 4, pp. 137-144, Fall 1992.
- 4. "The Federal Circuit First Ten Years of Patentability Decisions", 14 George Mason Univ. L.R. 499 (1992).
- 5. "Key License Clauses for Technology License Agreements", Technology Licensing 1988, Course Handbook, Series #245, Practicing Law Institute, Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks and Literary Property.
- 6. Author and Presenter, "Current Developments in U.S. and International Law & Policy", Hatsumei Kyokai (Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation) (Tokyo, Japan; March 8, 1993).
- 7. Co-Author with C. Chalsen and M. Murray, "A Report on the Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Patent Law Reform", <u>Selected Legal Papers</u>, American Intellectual Property Law Association, Vol. X, No. 2, pp. 3-20 (January 1993).
- 8. Co-Author and Co-Presenter with C. Chalsen, "A Report on the Advisory Commission on Patent Law Reform", <u>Chizaiken</u> (Japan Institute of Intellectual Property) (Tokyo, Japan; September 16, 1992).
- 9. Co-Author and Co-Presenter with C. Chalsen, "Techniques for Obtaining a Strong U.S. Patent", Japanese Group of A.I.P.P.I.; Presented: Tokyo, Japan, September 18, 1992, Published: Journal of the Japanese Group A.I.P.P.I., Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 16-22 (January 1993).
- 10. Co-Author with C. Chalsen and M. Murray; and Co-Presenter, "Effective Handling of Jury Trials in Patent Cases", Presented: Tokyo, Japan; September 18, 1992, Published: <u>Journal of the Japanese Group A.I.P.P.I.</u>, Vol. 37, Nos. 9-10, pp. 12-18 (September October 1992).

95/000,487	ELECTRONIC SOURCING SYSTEM	07-27- 2009::09:12:09		
Transaction History				
Date	Transaction Description			
07-27-2009	Notice of Incomplete Reexam Request Received but no filing date accorded			
07-23-2009	Certificate of Service			
07-23-2009	Change in Power of Attorney (May Include Associate POA)			
07-10-2009	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed			
07-10-2009	Reexam - Information Disclosure Statement Filed by Third Party Requester			
07-10-2009	Receipt of Original Inter Partes Reexam Request			

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### CASES IN WHICH HARRY F. MANBECK, JR. HAS TESTIFIED SINCE JUNE 2005

1. Case Name:

Cargill, Incorporated v. Canbra Foods, Ltd., Dow Agrosciences, LLC and

Dow Agrosciences Canada, Inc.

Case No.:

03 1209-MO

Court:

United States District Court, District of Oregon

Trial:

6/22/05

2. Case Name:

Albemarle Corporation v. Great Lakes Chemical Corp.

Case No.:

02-505-A-M3 & 02-506-A-M3 (consolidated) (M.D. La)

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division

Deposition:

11/3/05

3. Case Name:

St. Paul Companies v. Birch

Case No.:

01-10327RBC

Court:

United States District Court, District of Massachusetts

Trial:

1/18/06

4. Case Name:

Meritor Transmission Corporation v. Eaton Corporation

Case No.:

1:04 cv 178

Court:

United States District Court, District of North Carolina, Shelby Division

Deposition:

11/21/05

5. Case Name:

Gobeli Research, Ltd. v. Apple Computer Inc, and Sun MicroSystems. Inc.

Case No.:

Jase No.:

2-04-CV-149

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Deposition:

11/29/05

6. Case Name:

Fisher Tool Co., Inc., et al. v. Gillet Outillage, et al.

Case No.:

CV 04-7550 ABC (SHx)

Court:

United States District Court, Central District of California

Deposition:

1/05/06

7. Case Name:

ePlus, Inc. v. SAP AG, et al.

Civil Action No.:

3:05cv281

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Trial:

4/3/06

8. Case Name:

Ronald D. Russo v. Ballard Medical Products, Kimberly-Clark Worldwide,

Inc., and Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Case No.:

2:05 cv 00059 TC

Court:

United States District Court, District of Utah

Deposition:

5/3/06

9. Case Name: Certain l

Certain Flash Memory Devices and Components Thereof, and Products

**Containing Such Devices and Components** 

Investigation No.: 337-TA-552

Court:

United States International Trade Commission

Deposition:

5/23/06

10. Case Name:

Fenner Investments, Ltd. v. Juniper Networks, Inc., UTStarcom, Inc., Nokia, Inc., Nortel Networks Corporation, Lucent Technologies, Inc., and Cisco Systems, Inc., Clark Worldwide, Inc., and Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Case No.:

2:05 cv 05 LD (Davis)

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Deposition:

7/11/06

11. Case Name:

Taltech Limited v. Esquel Enterprises, Ltd.

Case No.:

C04-974Z

Court:

United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Seattle Division

Deposition:

7/19/06

12. Case Name:

Sanitec Industries, Inc. v. Micro-Waste Corporation

Case No.:

04-3066

Court:

United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division

Trial:

7/31/06

13. Case Name:

NetMoneyIN, Inc. v. VeriSign, Inc., et al.

Case No.:

01-441 TUC-RCC

Court:

United States District Court, District of Arizona

Deposition:

8/23/06

14. Case Name:

Eaton Corporation v. ZF Meritor, LLC Arvin Meritor, Inc. and ZF

Friedrichshafen AG

Case No.:

74844

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

Deposition:

8/31/06

15. Case Name:

Aspex Eyewear, Inc., Chic Optic, Inc. and Contour Optik, Inc., v.

Safilo USA, Inc.

Case No.:

04 Civ. 7473 (SHS)

Court:

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

Deposition:

1/17/07

16. Case Name:

Highway Equipment Company, Inc. v. Cives Corporation and Monroe Truck

Equipment, Inc.

Case No.:

C04-147LRR

Court:

United States District Court, Cedar Rapids District

Deposition:

5/30/07

17. Case Name: O2 Micro International Limited v. Samsung Electronics, Co. LTD., Samsung

Electronics America, Inc., Samsung SDI Co., LTD., Samsung SDI America, Inc.

Case No.:

2:04-CV-323 (Ward)

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Deposition:

2/12/07

18. Case Name:

CPI v. St. Jude Medical, Inc., et al.

Case No.:

04-0067-SLR

Court:

United States District Court, District of Delaware

Deposition:

11/30/06

19. Case Name:

Med Immune Oncology v. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries

Case No.:

1:04-CV-02612-MJG

Court:

United States District Court, District of Maryland

Deposition:

3/9/07

20. Case Name:

Prometheus Laboratories, Inc. v. Mayo Collaborative Services dba Mayo

Medical Laboratories and Mayo Clinic Rochester

Case No.:

04 cv 1200 JAH (RBB)

Court:

United States District Court, Southern District of California

Deposition:

3/16/07

21. Case Name:

Armament Systems Procedures, Inc., v. IQ Hong Kong Limited, et al.

Case No.:

00-C-1257

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin

Trial:

5/1/07

22. Case Name:

Enzo Biochem, Inc., Enzo Life Sciences, Inc., and Yale University v. Applera

Corp. and Tropix, Inc.

Case No.:

3-04CV-929(JBA)

Court:

United States District Court, District of Connecticut

Deposition:

5/11/07

23. Case Name:

Schlindler Elevator Corporation and Inventio AG v. Otis Elevator Company

Civil Action No.:

06-CV-05377 (RCC)

Court:

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

Deposition:

5/30/07

24. Case Name:

Arrow Communication Laboratories, Inc., and Tresness Irrevocable Patent

Trust v. John Mezzalingua Associates, Inc.

Case No.:

5:05-CV-1456 (NAM/EP)

Court:

United States District Court, Northern District of New York

Deposition:

8/27/07

25. Case Name:

Sky Technologies, LLC v. Ariba, Inc.

Case No.:

06CA11889

Court:

United States District Court, District of Massachusetts

Deposition:

8/31/07

26. Case Name:

Mobile Micromedia Solutions LLC v. Nissan North America, Inc.

Case No.:

5:05-CV-230

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana Division

Deposition:

9/5/07

27. Case Name:

TGIP, Inc. v. AT&T Corp., Verizon Communications, Inc., Bell Atlantic Communications, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Long Distance, Verizon Select Services, Inc., MCI, Inc., MCI Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a MCI, MCI Network Services, Inc., Teleconnect Long Distance Services & Systems Company d/b/a Telecom\*USA, IDT Corporation, U.S. South Communications, Inc. d/b/a U.S. South and d/b/a Interactive Communications International Inc. a/k/a Incomm,

Pre Holdings, Inc., Pre Solutions, Inc.

Case No.:

2-06 CV-105

Court:

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Trial:

9/12/07

28. Case Name:

Amgen v. Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Harvard University, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology and Whitehead Technology

Civil Action No.:

06-259-MPT

Court:

United States District Court for the District of Delaware

Deposition:

3/20/08

29. Case Name: Civil Action No.: SmarTire Systems, Inc. v. Siemens VDO Automotive Corp., et al.

1:07-cv-932

Court:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria Division)

Deposition:

3/4/08

30. Case Name:

Chemfree Corporation v. J. Walter, Inc. and J. Walter Co., Ltd.

Civil Action No.:

1:04-CV-3711-JTC

Court:

United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

Deposition:

5/13/08

31. Case Name:

Sky Technologies LLC v. SAP AG, SAP America, Inc. and Oracle Corporation

Civ. Action No.:

2:06-cv-440-DF

Court:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Deposition:

5/16/08

32. Case Name:

In the Matter of Certain Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters and Products

Containing the Same

Investigation No.:

337-TA-615

Court:

United States International Trade Commission, Washington, DC

Deposition:

6/4/08

33. Case Name:

In Re Certain digital Television Sets

Investigation No.: 337-TA-617

Court:

United States International Trade Commission

Deposition:

6/29/08

34. Case Name:

Vaxiion Therapeutics v. Foley & Lardner

Case No.:

3:07-cv-00280-IEG-RBB

Court:

United States District Court, Southern District of California, San Diego

Deposition:

7/8/08

35. Case Name:

Siemens AG v. Seagate Technology

Case No.:

SACV 06-788-JVS (ANx)

Court:

United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division

Deposition:

7/17/08

Trial:

12/4/08

36. Case Name:

Verizon Services Corp., Verizon Communications, Inc., MCI

Communications Corporation, and Verizon Business Global LLC v. Cox FiberNet Virginia, Inc., Cox Virginia Telecom, Inc., Cox Communications

Hampton Roads LLC, CoxCom, Inc., and Cox Communications, Inc.

Civ. Action No.:

2:08 CV20-JBF/TEM

Court:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

Deposition:

7/31-18/08

37. Case Name:

D. Yogi Goswami v. Universal Air Technology, Inc., a New Jersey

Corporation and Lennox Industries, Inc., an Iowa corporation

Case No.:

01-02-CA-101

Court:

Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Alachua County, Florida

Trial:

9/11/08

38. Case Name:

New Medium LLC, AV Technologies LLC, J. Carl Cooper, Pixel Instruments Corporation, IP Innovation LLC, and Technology Licensing Corporation v.

Barco N.V., and Syntax-Brillian Corporation

Case No.:

05 C 5620

Court:

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division

Trial:

9/16/08

39. Case Name:

SuperSpeed, LLC v. IBM Corporation

Case No.:

2:07-CV-089-TJW

Court:

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division

Deposition:

4/8/09

40. Case Name:

Timothy & Thomas LLC v. Viral Genetics, Inc. and Haig Keledjian

Case No.:

06-CV-1813

Court:

Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division

Deposition:

5/6/09

## **EXHIBIT B**

95/000,487	ELECTRONIC SOURCING SYSTEM	07-17- 2009::14:29:23
Transaction History		
Date	Transaction Description	
07-10-2009	Notice of Incomplete Reexam Request Received but no filing date accorded	
07-10-2009	Reexam - Information Disclosure Statement Filed by Third Party Requester	
07-10-2009	Receipt of Original Inter Partes Reexam Request	

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95/000,487	ELECTRONIC SOURCING SYSTEM	07-27- 2009::09:12:09		
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Date	Transaction Description			
07-27-2009	Notice of Incomplete Reexam Request Received but no filing date accorded			
07-23-2009	Certificate of Service			
07-23-2009	Change in Power of Attorney (May Include Associate POA)			
07-10-2009	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed			
07-10-2009	Reexam - Information Disclosure Statement Filed by Third Party Requester			
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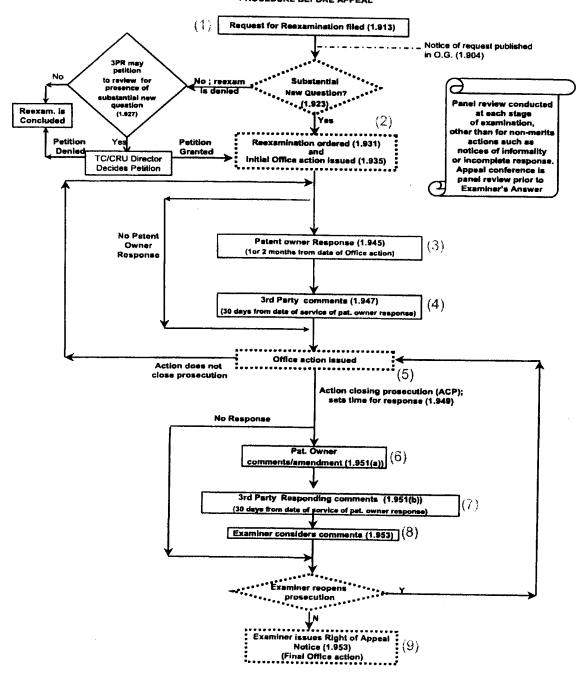
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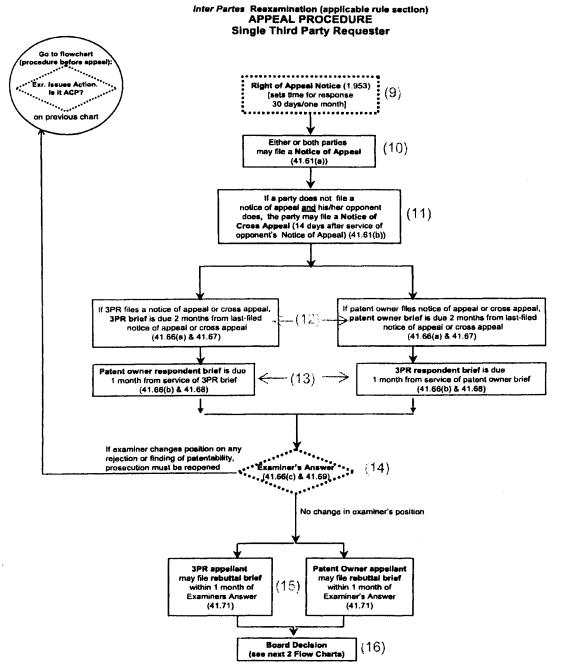
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#### MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE

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### Inter Partes Reexamination (applicable rule section) PROCEDURE BEFORE APPEAL



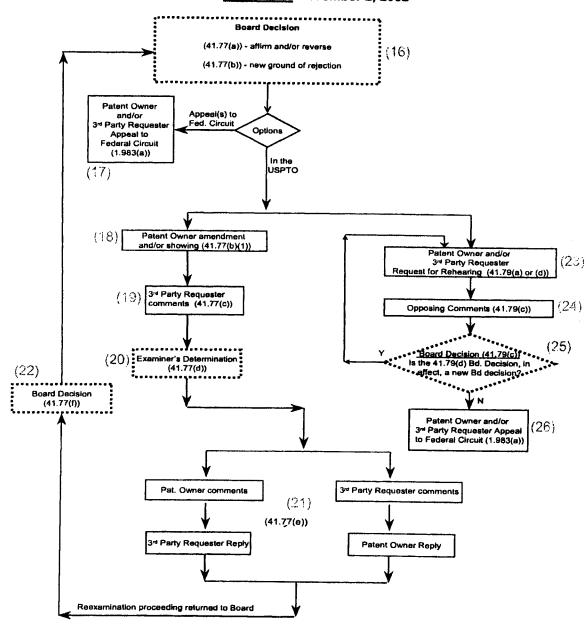


Flow chart on page 2600-6 is omitted as it applies only to reexaminations commenced prior to November 2, 2000.

#### OPTIONAL INTER PARTES REEXAMINATION

2601.01

## Inter Partes Reexamination (applicable rule section) Procedure Following Board Decision for Reexaminations Commenced On or After November 2, 2002



2600-7

Rev. 5, Aug. 2006

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## EXHIBIT D

### INTER PARTES REEXAMINATION TIME LINE (USE WITH MPEP FLOWCHART

	Step in <i>Inter Partes</i> Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	
1.	Request for Reexamination filed	37 CFR § 1.913	
2.	Reexamination ordered and Initial Office action issued	37 CFR § 1.931 (Order for <i>inter partes</i> reexamination.) 37 CFR § 1.935 (Initial Office Action may accompany the order for <i>inter partes</i> reexamination.)	Is Confinence of the second of
3.	Patent Owner Response	37 CFR § 1.945	1 d
4.	3rd Party requester comments	37 CFR § 1.947	3
5.	Office Action issued	37 CFR § 1.949	ra
6.	[if Office Action closes prosecution –]  Patent Owner submits comments/amendments in response to Action closing prosecution  AND/OR  Patent Owner files a Rule 1.181 petition	37 CFR § 1.951 Options after Office action closing prosecution in inter partes reexamination.  (a) After an Office action closing prosecution in an inter partes reexamination, the patent owner may once file comments limited to the issues raised in the Office action closing prosecution. The comments can include a proposed amendment to the claims, which amendment will be subject to the criteria of § 1.116 as to whether or not it shall be admitted. The comments must be filed within the time set for response in the Office action closing prosecution.  MPEP § 2672.VI. ACTION CLOSING PROSECUTION –	P pr
		PREMATURE If the patent owner is of the opinion that the Office action closing	\ \

	Step in Inter Partes Reexam	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		prosecution in the <i>inter partes</i> reexamination proceeding is premature, the patent owner may, in addition to the comments submitted under 37 CFR 1.951(a), file a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 within the time period for filing the comments under 37 CFR 1.951(a).	response to ACP.
		MPEP § 2672.III. ACTION TAKEN BY EXAMINER It should be kept in mind that a patent owner cannot, as a matter of right, amend claims rejected in the ACP, add new claims after an ACP, nor reinstate previously canceled claims. A showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b) is required and will be evaluated by the examiner for all proposed amendments after the ACP, except where an amendment merely cancels claims, adopts examiner's suggestions, removes issues for appeal, or in some other way requires only a cursory review by the examiner.	
7.	3rd Party Responding comments AND/OR response to Patent Owner's Rule 1.181 petition	(b) When the patent owner does file comments, a third party requester may once file comments responsive to the patent owner's comments within 30 days from the date of service of patent owner's comments on the third party requester.  MPEP§ 2672.VI. ACTION CLOSING PROSECUTION - PREMATURE  The third party requester may then once file, as a paper separate from any submission under 37 CFR 1.951(b), comments responsive to the patent owner's petition under 37 CFR 1.181 within 30 days from the date of service of the patent owner's petition under 37 CFR 1.181 on the third party requester.	30 days from date of service of patent owner response
∞i	Examiner considers comments. Examiner may then issue a Right of Appeal Notice.	§ 1.953 Examiner's Right of Appeal Notice in inter partes reexamination.  (a) Upon considering the comments of the patent owner and the third party requester subsequent to the Office action closing prosecution in an inter partes reexamination, or upon expiration of the time for submitting such comments, the examiner shall issue a Right of Appeal	ranges from 1.9 months to 3.5 years

	Step in Inter Partes Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
	Examiner may reopen prosecution.	Notice, unless the examiner reopens prosecution and issues another Office action on the merits.  (b) Expedited Right of Appeal Notice: At any time after the patent owner's response to the initial Office action on the merits in an <i>interpartes</i> reexamination, the patent owner and all third party requesters	
		may stipulate that the issues are appropriate for a final action, which would include a final rejection and/or a final determination favorable to patentability, and may request the issuance of a Right of Appeal Notice. The request must have the concurrence of the patent owner and all third party requesters present in the proceeding and must identify all of the appealable issues and the positions of the patent owner and all third party requesters on those issues. If the examiner determines that no other issues are present or should be raised, a Right of Appeal Notice limited to the identified issues shall be issued.	
6	[if Examiner does not reopen prosecution –] Examiner issues Right of Appeal Notice (Final Office action)	action, which comprises a final rejection setting forth each ground of rejection and/or final decision favorable to patentability including each determination not to make a proposed rejection, an identification of the status of each claim, and the reasons for decisions favorable to patentability and/or the grounds of rejection for each claim. No amendment can be made in response to the Right of Appeal Notice. The Right of Appeal Notice shall set a one-month time period for either party to appeal. If no notice of appeal is filed, prosecution in the <i>inter partes</i> reexamination proceeding will be terminated, and the Director will proceed to issue and publish a certificate under §1.997 in accordance with the Right of Appeal Notice.	ranges from 1.9 months to 3.5 years
10.	Either or both parties may file a Notice of Appeal	37 CFR § 41.61 Notice of appeal and cross appeal to Board. (a)(1) Upon the issuance of a Right of Appeal Notice under § 1.953 of this title, the owner may appeal to the Board with respect to the final rejection of any claim of the patent by filing a notice of appeal within the time provided in the Right of Appeal Notice and paying the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(1).	within 1 month from Right of Appeal Notice

:	Step in Inter Partes Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		(a)(2) Upon the issuance of a Right of Appeal Notice under § 1.953 of this title, the requester may appeal to the Board with respect to any final decision favorable to the patentability, including any final determination not to make a proposed rejection, of any original, proposed amended, or new claim of the patent by filing a notice of appeal within the time provided in the Right of Appeal.	
==	If a party does not file a notice of appeal and his/her opponent does, the party may file a Notice of Cross Appeal	<b>37 CFR § 41.61 (b)(1)</b> Within fourteen days of service of a requester's notice of appeal under paragraph (a)(2) of this section and upon payment of the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(1), an owner who has not filed a notice of appeal may file a notice of cross appeal with respect to the final rejection of any claim of the patent.	14 days after service of opponent's Notice of Appeal
		(b)(2) Within fourteen days of service of an owner's notice of appeal under paragraph (a)(1) of this section and upon payment of the fee set forth in §41.20(b)(1), a requester who has not filed a notice of appeal may file a notice of cross appeal with respect to any final decision favorable to the patentability, including any final determination not to make a proposed rejection, of any original, proposed amended, or new claim of the patent.	
		MPEP § 2674. Where a notice of appeal or notice of cross appeal is timely filed but is defective, e.g., missing fee or missing portion of the fee, no proof of service is included, it is signed by an inappropriate party or is unsigned, failure to identify the appealed claims; 37 CFR 41.61(f) provides the appropriate party one opportunity to file, within a nonextendable period of one month, an amended notice of appeal or cross appeal that corrects the defect(s).	1 month to cure defects in timely-filed Notice of Appeal
12.	Appeal Brief / Cross-Appeal Brief	37 CFR § 41.66. Time for filing briefs.  (a) An appellant's brief must be filed no later than two months from the latest filing date of the last-filed notice of appeal or cross appeal or, if any party to the proceeding is entitled to file an appeal or cross	2 months from last- filed notice of appeal or cross appeal

	Step in Inter Partes Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		appeal but fails to timely do so, no later than two months from the expiration of the time for filing (by the last party entitled to do so) such notice of appeal or cross appeal. The time for filing an appellant's brief or an amended appellant's brief may not be extended.	
13.	Reply Brief	<b>37 CFR § 41.66(b).</b> Once an appellant's brief has been properly filed, any brief must be filed by respondent within one month from the date of service of the appellant's brief. The time for filing a respondent's brief or an amended respondent's brief may not be extended.	due 1 month from service of Appeal Brief
14.	Examiner's Answer	<b>37 CFR § 41.66(c).</b> The examiner will consider both the appellant's and respondent's briefs and may prepare an examiner's answer under § 41.69.	typically one to three months after receipt of respondent's brief
15.	[if Examiner does not change position on any rejection –] Either or both parties can file Rebuttal Brief	<b>37 CFR § 41.66(d).</b> Any appellant may file a rebuttal brief under § 41.71 within one month of the date of the examiner's answer. The time for filing a rebuttal brief or an amended rebuttal brief may not be extended.	within 1 month after date of Examiner's Answer
	Request for Oral Hearing (not shown in flow chart)	37 CFR § 41.73(b). If an appellant or respondent desires an oral hearing, he or she must file, as a separate paper captioned 'REQUEST FOR ORAL HEARING," a written request for such hearing accompanied by the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(3) within two months after the date of the examiner's answer.	within 2 months after the date of Examiner's Answer
	Oral Hearing Before BPAI (not shown in flow chart)		within 6-12 months after filing of request for oral hearing.
16.	Board Decision The PTO's Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) may:	37 CFR § 41.77 Decisions and other actions by the Board.  (a) The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, in its decision, may affirm or reverse each decision of the examiner on all issues raised on each appealed claim, or remand the reexamination proceeding to the examiner for further consideration. The reversal of the examiner's	ranges from 1.5 to 3.7 years after issuance of Right of Appeal Notice

	Step in Inter Partes Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
	<ul> <li>(1) affirm the Examiner's decision</li> <li>(2) reverse the Examiner's decision</li> <li>(3) remand the proceeding to Examiner for further consideration</li> </ul>	determination not to make a rejection proposed by the third party requester constitutes a decision adverse to the patentability of the claims which are subject to that proposed rejection which will be set forth in the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences as a new ground of rejection under paragraph (b) of this section. The affirmance of the rejection of a claim on any of the grounds specified constitutes a general affirmance of the decision of the examiner on that claim, except as to any ground specifically reversed.	
	(4) provide a new ground of rejection	(b) Should the Board reverse the examiner's determination not to make a rejection proposed by a requester, the Board shall set forth in the opinion in support of its decision a new ground of rejection; or should the Board have knowledge of any grounds not raised in the appeal for rejecting any pending claim, it may include in its opinion a statement to that effect with its reasons for so holding, which statement shall constitute a new ground of rejection of the claim. Any decision which includes a new ground of rejection pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered final for judicial review.	
17.	[If either party appeals to Fed Cir.—J] Fed. Cir. appeal process	35 U.S.C. §§ 141-145.  35 U.S.C. §§ 141-142. When an appeal is taken to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the appellant shall file in the Patent and Trademark Office a written notice of appeal directed to the Director, within such time after the date of the decision from which the appeal is taken as the Director prescribes, but in no case less than 60 days after that date.	60 days after Board decision
	Fed. Cir. sets schedule for briefing and argument (not shown in flow chart)		
	Fed. Cir. decision (not shown in flow chart)		Median is 8.9 months from docketing date to disposition date.

	Step in <i>Inter Partes</i> Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
			See Ex. C.
18.	[If Board decision is not final for judicial review—] Patent Owner amendment and/or showing of new evidence	37 CFR § 41.77(b) When the Board makes a new ground of rejection, the owner, within one month from the date of the decision, must exercise one of the following two options with respect to the new ground of rejection to avoid termination of the appeal proceeding as to the rejected claim:  (1) Reopen prosecution. The owner may file a response requesting reopening of prosecution before the examiner. Such a response must be either an amendment of the claims so rejected or new evidence relating to the claims so rejected, or both.  (2) Request rehearing. See below.	within 1 month of Board Decision
19.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Requester comments	<b>37 CFR</b> § <b>41.77(c)</b> . Where the owner has filed a response requesting reopening of prosecution under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, any requester, within one month of the date of service of the owner's response, may once file comments on the response. Such written comments must be limited to the issues raised by the Board's opinion reflecting its decision and the owner's response. Any requester that had not previously filed an appeal or cross appeal and is seeking under this subsection to file comments or a reply to the comments is subject to the appeal and brief fees under § 41.20 (b)(1) and (2), respectively, which must accompany the comments or reply.	within 1 month of service of patent owner's response
20.	Examiner's Determination	37 CFR § 41.77(d). Following any response by the owner under paragraph (b)(1) of this section and any written comments from a requester under paragraph (c) of this section, the proceeding will be remanded to the examiner. The statement of the Board shall be binding upon the examiner unless an amendment or new evidence not previously of record is made which, in the opinion of the examiner, overcomes the new ground of rejection stated in the decision. The examiner will consider any owner response under paragraph (b)(1) of this section and any written comments by a requester under paragraph (c) of this section and issue a determination that the rejection is maintained or has been overcome.	indeterminate (no inter partes reexamination has progressed this far)

	Step in <i>Inter Partes</i> Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
21.	Either party comments & the other party replies	<b>37 CFR § 41.77(e).</b> Within one month of the examiner's determination pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, the owner or any requester may once submit comments in response to the examiner's determination. Within one month of the date of service of comments in response to the examiner's determination, the owner and any requesters may file a reply to the comments. No requester reply may address the comments of any other requester reply. Any requester that had not previously filed an appeal or cross appeal and is seeking under this subsection to file comments or a reply to the comments is subject to the appeal and brief fees under § 41.20(b)(1) and (2), respectively, which must accompany the comments or reply.	comments within 1 month of examiner's determination;  plus reply within 1 month of comments
22.	Reexamination proceeding returned to Board for Board Decision	<b>37 CFR</b> § <b>41.77(f).</b> After submission of any comments and any reply pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section, or after time has expired, the proceeding will be returned to the Board which shall reconsider the matter and issue a new decision. The new decision is deemed to incorporate the earlier decision, except for those portions specifically withdrawn.	returned to Board upon comments and reply, or after expiration of 1-2 months
	[Loop back to Step (16) Board Decision above ]	37 CFR §§ 41.77(a), 41.77(b).	see time periods above for BPAI review

within 1 month of	Board Decision						
37 CFR § 41.79 Rehearing.	(a) Parties to the appeal may file a request for rehearing of the decision Board Decision	(1)The original decision of the Board under § 41.77(a),	(2)The original § 41.77(b) decision under the provisions of §	41.77(b)(2),	(3)The expiration of the time for the owner to take action under §	41.77(b)(2), or	(4)The new decision of the Board under § 41.77(f).
23. [Alternative option after any	Board Decision -]	Patent Owner and/or 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Party Kequester Request for	Rehearing			
23.							

within 1 month of Request for Rehearing	indeterminate (no inter partes reexamination has progressed this far)	see time periods set forth above for rehearing and/or Fed. Cir. appeal
37 CFR § 41.79(c) Within one month of the date of service of any request for rehearing under paragraph (a) of this section, or any further request for rehearing under paragraph (d) of this section, the owner and all requesters may once file comments in opposition to the request for rehearing or the further request for rehearing. The comments in opposition must be limited to the issues raised in the request for rehearing or the further request for rehearing or the further request for rehearing.  (e) The times for requesting rehearing under paragraph (a) of this section, and for submitting comments under paragraph (b) of this section may not be extended.	ander paragraph (a) of this section, or a further request for rehearing under paragraph (a) of this section, or a further request for rehearing under this section, the Board shall render a decision on the request for rehearing. The decision on the request for rehearing is deemed to incorporate the earlier opinion reflecting its decision for appeal, except for those portions specifically withdrawn on rehearing and is final for the purpose of judicial review, except when noted otherwise in the decision on rehearing.	37 § 41.79(d) If the Board opinion reflecting its decision on rehearing becomes, in effect, a new decision, and the Board so indicates, then any party to the appeal may, within one month of the new decision, file a further request for rehearing of the new decision under this subsection. Such further request for rehearing must comply with paragraph (b) of this section.
Opposing Party's Comments	Board Decision	[If Board's decision on rehearing is not a new decision –] Appeal to Fed. Cir. [If Board's decision on rehearing becomes a new decision, loop back to Step (23) Request for Rehearing]
24.	25.	26.

# **EXHIBIT E**

# United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

# Caseload Analysis FY 2007 - FY 2008

	FY 2008	FY 2007	
	12 Months Ending 9/30/2008	12 Months Ending 9/30/2007	% Change
FILINGS			
Total Filings <sup>1</sup>	1459	1545	%9'5'
District Court	750	430	7.0.7
Court of Federal Claims	205	188	4.0%
Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	021	319	7.0.7
Court of International Trade	45	67.	-32.8%
Merit Systems Protection Board	419	389	7.7%
Patent & Trademark Office	82	52	57.7%
Boards of Contract Appeals	24	16	20.0%
International Trade Commission	24	38	-36.8%
Department of Veterans Affairs	8	3	0.0%
Office of Compliance	1	4	-75.0%
Writs	27	30	-10.0%
Total Filings per Panel <sup>2</sup>	365	386	-5.4%
TERMINATIONS			
Total Terminations <sup>3</sup>	1745	1718	1.6%
District Court	478	504	-5.2%
Court of Federal Claims	177	185	-4.3%
Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	478	387	23.5%
Court of International Trade	64	54	18.5%
Merit Systems Protection Board	420	436	-3.7%
Patent & Trademark Office	09	69	-13.0%
Boards of Contract Appeals	23	29	-20.7%
International Trade Commission	16	18	-11.1%
Department of Veterans Affairs	8	4	-25.0%
Office of Compliance	æ	0	300.0%
Writs	23	32	-28.1%
Total Terminations per Panel	436	430	1.4%

United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Caseload Analysis FY 2007 - FY 2008 Page 2

	FY 2008 12 Months Ending 9/30/2008	<b>FY 2007</b> 12 Months Ending 9/30/2007	% Change
Total Merits Terminations <sup>4</sup>	716	797	-10.2%
District Court	208	234	-11.1%
Court of Federal Claims	85	113	-24.8%
Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	107	78	37.2%
Court of International Trade	37	34	8.8%
Merit Systems Protection Board	228	265	-14.0%
Patent & Trademark Office	27	45	-40.0%
Boards of Contract Appeals	11	22	-50.0%
International Trade Commission	10	3	233.3%
Department of Veterans Affairs	1	2	-50.0%
Office of Compliance	2	0	200.0%
Writs	0	1	-100.0%
Percentage of Merits Terminations Orally Argued:5	61.0%	62.1%	
Dispositions:			
FCR 36 Summary Orders	129	179	-27.9%
Other Non-Precedential Opinions	346	353	-2.0%
Precedential Opinions	241	265	-9.1%
Percentage Non-Precedential Dispositions:	66.3%	66.8%	
CASE EVENT TIMELINES			
Median Time: Docketing to Disposition <sup>6</sup>			
All Appeals	8.4 months	6.6 months	
Merits Dispositions	9.0 months	9.1 months	
Median Time: Calendar to Disposition <sup>7</sup>	,		
All Merits Dispositions	1.6 months	1.7 months	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Merits Terminations: Dispositions by three-judge merits panels or by the court en banc based on the merits of a case after presentation in briefs pursuant to FRAP 28. Excludes cross- and consolidated appeals and dispositions by motions panels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Percentage of Merits Terminations Orally Argued: Most appeals where the parties are represented by counsel are argued orally. Pro se appeals are not argued orally.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Median Time Docketing to Disposition: Median number of months between docketing and disposition for appeals terminated during the 12-month review period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Median Time Calendar to Disposition: Median number of months between oral argument or submission on the briefs and disposition for appeals terminated during the 12-month review period.

### United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circ

Median Time to Disposition in Cases Terminated After Hearing or Submission Docketing Date<sup>2</sup> to Disposition Date, in Months

	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>FY 00</u>	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	<u>FY 04</u>	FY 05	FY 06	<u>FY 07</u>
District Court	11.7	12.8	13.3	12.3	11.3	11.7	11.6	11.5	11.6
Court of Federal Claims	10.6	11.4	12.0	11.4	9.8	11.0	11.2	10.0	10.0
Court of International Trade	12.6	13.1	14.5	14.7	11.2	12.0	11.5	11.7	11.9
Court of Appeals Veterans Claims	9.1	10.6	11.3	12.9	10.6	10.0	9.9	8.4	8.4
Board of Contract Appeals	12.1	13.1	12.0	11.3	12.6	9.7	10.5	11.7	10.4
Department of Veterans Affairs	n/a	15.0	19.9	11.1	13.8	n/a	14.4	13.7	11.3
International Trade Commission	11.9	24.3	6.8	n/a	17.1	16.0	16.4	15.6	13.6
Merit Systems Protection Board	6.6	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.6	6.9	7.5	6.5	6.4
Office of Compliance	12.5	7.2	10.2	n/a	19.6	10.1	13.3	14.0	n/a
Patent and Trademark Office	9.3	10.0	10.6	10.7	9.5	9.6	10.3	10.0	9.6
Overall Median per Fiscal Year	9.8	10.1	11.2	10.5	9.6	10.0	9.9	9.3	9.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excludes cross and consolidated appeals, writs, and OPM petitions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Calculated from Date of Docketing or Date of Reinstatement, whichever is later

# **EXHIBIT F**

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Initial OA	7/45/0004	7/15/2004	9/4/2004	7/1/2001	1/14/2004	7/30/2004		8/25/2004	8/31/2004	9/16/2004	11/18/2004	11/23/2004	12/10/2004	12/8/2004	12/8/2004	3/8/2006	6/29/2005	6/13/2005	12/21/2004	9/28/2006	9/28/2006	1/28/2005	2/3/2005	3/9/2006	3/17/2005	5/3/2005	4/21/2005	3/2/2005	3/15/2005	4/21/2005	3/21/2005	2/0/2/0/6	3/15/2005	4/5/2005	4/18/2005	4/21/2005	4/12/2005	4/19/2005	5/26/2006	5/26/2006	5/19/2005	5/11/2005	5/11/2005	9/20/2005		
Determination Date	7/45/2004	9/2/2004	9/2/2004	7/14/2004	7/14/2004 	7/30/2004	9	8/25/2004	8/31/2004	9/16/2004	11/18/2004	11/23/2004	12/10/2004	12/8/2004	12/8/2004	12/14/2004	1/11/2005	12/16/2004	12/21/2004	1/12/2005	1/12/2005	1/28/2005	2/3/2005	2/28/2005	2/28/2005	2/28/2005	2/28/2005	3/2/2005	3/7/2005	2/28/2005	3/21/2005	3000/0/6	3/15/2005	4/5/2005	4/18/2005	4/21/2005	4/12/2005	4/19/2005	4/5/2005	4/5/2005	5/19/2005	5/11/2005	5/11/2005	5/18/2005	5/11/2005	5/11/2005
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95/001,140 1	1/28/2009	7410475	Ordered	3/11/2009	3/11/2009								·
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95/000,468	5/8/2009	6623486	Ordered	6/19/2009									
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## **EXHIBIT G**



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents

## EXHIBIT H



### Reexamining Inter partes Reexam

Beginning in 1981, U.S. patent law set up patent reexamination as an administrative alternative to litigation for addressing patent validity concerns. The idea was to create a less expensive and speedier alternative to decide questions of patent validity. Although the level of scrutiny of the U.S. patent system has risen dramatically in light of the ongoing debate over patent reform, reexamination has received relatively little attention. Recently however, we have observed a number of trends that suggest that it might be time to carefully reexamine patent reexamination, particularly *inter partes* reexamination.

In doing so, we have discovered the following:

- *Inter partes* reexaminations requests are rising rapidly a 6X increase between 2003 and 2007
- Reexamination, particularly *inter partes* reexamination is not simply used as an alternative to litigation, but an integral part of litigation strategy more than half (52%) of patents in *inter partes* reexams are known to be in litigation during their reexamination
- Virtually all requests for *inter partes* reexamination are granted 95% of *inter partes* reexam requests are granted, and this statistic may actually understate the effective grant rate
- To date, there has never been a single *inter partes* reexamination that has gone through the entire reexamination process (including appeal) and made it to completion only three have ever received a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
- Despite a mandate for "special dispatch", the time required to complete an *inter* partes reexamination is much longer than commonly believed
  - Without appeal, the average pendency period for *inter partes* reexam is
     43.5 months, much longer than the 28.5 months reported by the USPTO –
     a 95% confidence interval would put the pendency between 34 and 53 months
  - Although no *inter partes* reexam has ever been completed after being appealed, the average pendency for appealed *inter partes* reexams is 78.4 months (assuming no rework by the patent office or secondary appeal) a 95% confidence interval would put the pendency between 5 and 8 years

### Why reexamine inter partes reexams?

Over the last several years, the number of reexamination requests at the USPTO has been rising rapidly. This is particularly true for *inter partes* reexams. The number of requests for *inter partes* reexam had increased 6X from 24 in calendar 2003 to 142 in calendar 2007. (Note: Our analysis is based on calendar years rather than the USPTO's fiscal year.) This increase appears to be a result of the increasing use of reexamination as an integral part of litigation strategy by defendants or potential defendants in patent



litigation. According to USPTO statistics, more than half (52%) of all patents subject to *inter partes* reexamination are known to be in litigation during the reexamination process.

The story of Microsoft and Avistar is a particularly telling example. After six months of licensing negotiation, Microsoft has requested reexamination of 24 of Avistar's 29 U.S. patents. Although Avistar's key patents have previously survived two significant litigations, Microsoft's actions have delayed its licensing program and placed the company into financial distress resulting in a 25% reduction in its U.S. and European workforce.

Although the reexamination statute in the U.S. may have been intended to provide an alternative to litigation, the actual use of reexamination appears to be an augmentation of litigation strategy rather than an alternative. In many cases, patent litigation in U.S. courts and 337 actions at the International Trade Commission (investigations of unfair trade practices related to IP infringement) run simultaneously with reexamination at the Patent Office. Simultaneous litigation and reexamination raise serious questions for U.S. courts about whether to wait for the results of a pending reexamination or continue with their court proceedings.

The conclusions so far have been mixed. In some cases, patent litigation has been stayed pending the results of reexam, while in others, the cases have continued. Many people will remember for example that Judge Spencer who presided over the contentious patent battle between NTP and RIM over the "Blackberry patents" famously refused to stay the litigation proceedings despite the fact that the PTO had issued an initial rejection of the claims at issue.

These difficult and often critical decisions by circuit court judges and administrative law judges depend heavily on their understanding and expectations of what will happen in the reexamination process at the PTO. How reliable are initial office actions as a predictor of final results in a reexamination? How long will the process take? How often are the patent examiner's finding upheld on appeal? For judges, these questions are critical in determining whether a request for a stay should be granted. For litigants, these questions can strongly influence litigation strategy.

Ex parte reexamination was established by statute in 1981, and more than 9,000 reexamination requests have been filed with more than 6,000 reexamination certificates issued (signaling the completion of the process). The ex parte reexamination process is well established. Much less is known about inter partes reexams. Established by statute in November of 1999, the first inter partes reexamination was not requested until 2001. Through mid-April of 2008, there have been 396 requests for inter partes reexamination at the USPTO, and only 16 of those have received reexamination certificates.



Given the rising importance of reexaminations in general, and the relative scarcity of information about *inter partes* reexam specifically, we decided to take a closer look to discover what can be learned about this relatively little understood process.

## What did we do?

To examine the *inter partes* reexamination process, we copied transaction level data for every *inter partes* reexamination from the USPTO's PAIR database. These transactions reveal both the sequence and the timing of each step through the process. The database we created all cases and transactions through April 16, 2008.

We noted and corrected a number of anomalies in the PTO data including:

- Several reexaminations appeared to proceed without the initial "Request for *Inter partes* Reexamination" transaction in the PTO data we investigated and manually filled in this missing data
- Several reexaminations included references to "ex parte" reexamination despite the fact that they were "inter partes" reexams we manually reviewed and resolved each discrepancy
- Duplicate transactions (same reexam number, same transaction, same date) were eliminated these were generally not errors, but represent instances where the documents were uploaded into the PAIR system in multiple parts

We then extracted the key milestone transactions in the reexamination process and mapped the process and timeline for every *inter partes* reexamination to discover what path each case had taken through the process, and how long each step in the process takes. The results of our analysis are briefly described below, and more fully captured in the attached presentation slides.

## What did we find?

## Requests for inter partes reexamination are rising rapidly

As described above, the number of *inter partes* reexamination requests is rising rapidly. In 2007, there were 142 requests for *inter partes* reexams, three times as many as in 2005, and nearly six times as many as in 2003. *Inter partes* reexam requests have risen nearly 90% per year (CAGR) over the last five years.

## Nearly all inter partes reexamination request are granted

Granting a request for reexamination is not automatic. The standard for granting a reexamination request requires that a "significant new question" of patentability must be presented by the requestor. Since their inception in 2001, there have been 396 requests for *inter partes* reexamination requested at the USPTO. Of these, 354 have reached a decision about whether the reexamination request will be granted. Over this period, ninety-five percent of all *inter partes* reexam requests have been granted. With so few requests being denied (19), we reviewed each case where a reexamination was denied, and found that the effective denial rate may actually be overstated. A number of the

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nineteen requests for reexamination that were denied are from a small number of inventions where multiple patent reexams were requested. Still others were not for utility patents, but were request for reexamination of design patents. It is fair to say that virtually all requests for *inter partes* reexamination are granted. Whatever threshold has been established by the Patent Office for determining a "significant new question" of patentability, few requestors have been unable to clear it.

## The inter partes reexamination process is not linear

By tracing every single *inter partes* reexamination through the process, we were able to discover the path through reexamination that is actually followed by real patents in process. While the majority of patents follow the main sequence (Request  $\rightarrow$  Grant  $\rightarrow$  Non-final Office Action  $\rightarrow$  ACP  $\rightarrow$  Reexam Certificate), some cases skip steps, and others repeat steps multiple times. For example, some reexams skip over multiple steps and proceed quickly to a Reexam Certificate. This happens most often when the patent holder fails to respond to the Patent Office within the statutory timeframe, and the PTO proceeds to issue a certificate. Still other times, patents repeat steps multiple times. About one-quarter of the time *inter partes* reexams include multiple "Non-final Office Actions", and about one-tenth of the time they receive multiple "Actions Closing Prosecution".

## One-quarter of all *inter partes* reexam decisions are appealed, but none has ever proceeded through appeal to the end of the process

One of the major challenges in examining the *inter partes* reexam process is that very few cases have proceeded all the way through the process. Through mid-April 2008, only nineteen cases have ever proceeded past the Notice of Right to Appeal. Of these, approximately one-quarter (5 cases - 26%) have been appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI), one case (~5%) went back for another Action Closing Prosecution, and the remaining 13 cases (68%) moved on to "Intent to Issue a Reexam Certificate".

Of the cases that have gone on to appeal, only three have received a decision by the BPAI. None of the three decisions represents a final decision by the BPAI that can be appealed to the Federal Circuit as in each case, the Board added new grounds for rejection and remanded the cases to the Patent Office for further action. None of the three cases has reached a final Reexamination Certificate, and it has taken 4, 4, and 5 years for the cases to get to the initial BPAI decision.

The average pendency of 28.5 months reported by the USPTO is highly skewed. The USPTO regularly publishes statistics about *inter partes* reexaminations. According to their latest publication (December 31, 2007), the average pendency (Filing date to certificate issue date) is 28.5 months. This calculation is based on only 12 *inter partes* reexaminations that had reached a final certificate by that date. In our analysis which is up to date as of April 16, 2008, we found 16 reexaminations that had reached a final

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certificate. Our calculation of average pendency for those cases was only slightly longer at 30.1 months.

However, in carefully examining the 16 cases that have received final certificates, we note that 10 of the completed reexams skipped directly from the "First Non-final Action" to the "Intent to Issue a Reexam Certificate". Upon closer inspection, each of these cases skipped multiple steps because the patent owner failed to respond to the office action. The average pendency of these cases was 24 months, while the average for the remaining six cases that followed the basic process (Non-final Action  $\rightarrow$  ACP  $\rightarrow$  Right of Appeal  $\rightarrow$  Notice of Intent to Issue a Reexam Certificate  $\rightarrow$  Reexam Certificate) was ~39 months. It should be noted that NONE of the cases that have received a final Reexam Certificate have gone to appeal.

While mathematically accurate, the pendency statistic provided by the USPTO is highly misleading. An appropriate reading of the statistic is that the Patent Office takes two years to dispose of a patent through *inter partes* reexam if the patent holder doesn't care to defend its rights. It takes significantly longer to get to a resolution if the patent holder participates in the process.

Average pendency for an un-appealed *inter partes* reexam is more than 3.5 years. Given the small number of cases that have proceeded through the *inter partes* reexam process, a more appropriate way to estimate average pendency is to calculate the time required for cases to proceed through each step in the process and sum them up. We calculated an average time and a 95% confidence interval for each step in the main sequence. Based on our calculations, it takes more than 3½ years (43.5 months) for the average case to proceed through the basic reexam process to a final conclusion – this assumes that the case is not appealed to the BPAI or beyond. A 95% confidence interval suggests a range of between 34 and 53 months for average pendency for an un-appealed *inter partes* reexam.

Expected pendency for appealed *inter partes* reexams is at least 6.5 years

Inter partes cases that go through the appeal process can be expected to take much longer than the 3½ years described above. Calculating average pendency for appealed cases is difficult because as we have noted, there has never been an appealed *inter partes* case that has completed the process. However, if we make a conservative assumption that all cases that go through the appeal process will receive a decision by the BPAI and immediately move to "Intent to Issue a Reexam Certificate", then we can calculate an average expected pendency. The result of this calculation is that average pendency (assuming no "rework" by the patent office and no secondary appeals to the BPAI, the Federal Circuit, or the Supreme Court) is 78.4 months – slightly longer than 6.5 years. A 95% confidence interval suggests an average pendency for appealed cases (again, assuming no rework) is between 5 and 8 years (60-97 months)! Given that the only three inter partes reexam cases that have received a BPAI decision all require further "rework" and are subject to further appeal, these estimates may be highly conservative.



According to statute, reexam cases are to be handled with "special dispatch". This means that reexam cases are to receive priority over all other cases. The Patent Office has reportedly set a target of 24 months to complete the reexam process, but so far, the actual time to conclude an *inter partes* reexam is far beyond this target. This can not help but raise significant concern to anyone who is interested in the efficient administration of justice in the U.S. patent system.

### Conclusion

The *inter partes* reexam process requires special attention by the U.S. Patent Office. At present, the time to complete these cases far exceeds the expectation of "special dispatch" embodied in the patent statute. Federal judges, administrative law judges, and litigants should take special note of these facts as they can significantly impact the progress of patent litigation.

## **About the Authors:**

Mark Blaxill and Ralph Eckardt are founding Fellows of the Institute for Progress, and authors of the upcoming book The Invisible Edge: Taking Your Strategy to the Next Level Using Intellectual Property (Portfolio, March 2009). They are managing partners of 3LP Advisors, an investment advisory firm focused on intellectual property transactions. Blaxill is a former vice president of The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and was head of its Strategy practice initiative. Eckardt is the former head of BCG's Intellectual Property Strategy practice.

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## Reexamining Inter Partes Reexam

**April 2008** 

www.instituteforprogress.com

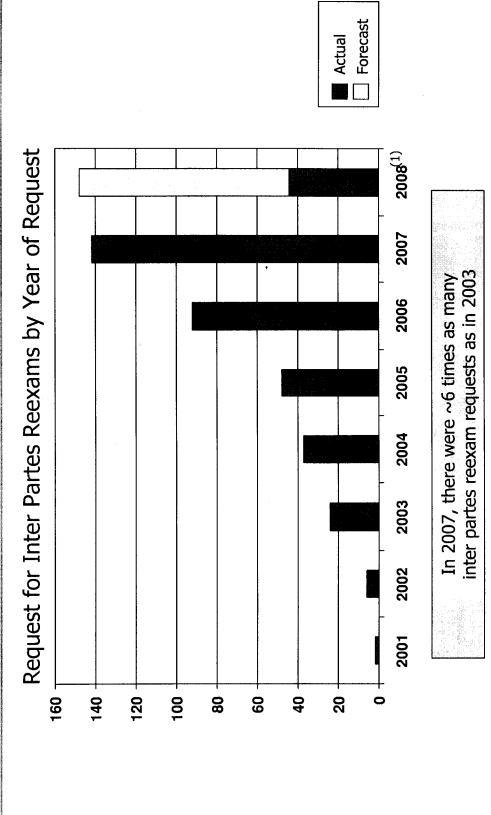
## Data Source and Method of Analysis

 $\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ 

- All data was taken directly from the USPTO PAIR system
- Includes all Inter Partes Reexam cases and transactions listed throat 16, 2008
  - Includes 95/000,001 through 95/000,362 and 95/001,001 through 95/001,007 and 95/001,025 for which there is no date.
  - Case 95/000,350 is excluded from timeline analysis since no date is realized in the second sec
- All transactions were downloaded from the Electronic File Wrappe were augmented with additional transactions from the Transactio wherever missing elements were identified
- Obvious anomalies were corrected manually
  - For example:
    - "Receipt of Original Inter Partes Reexam Request" identified where missing
    - Many erroneous references to "Ex Parte Reexams" were reviewed and elir
    - Duplicate transactions (same case number, same transaction, same date) eliminated
- Key milestones for each case were extracted along with their date analysis was performed on these transactions

# Requests for Inter Partes Reexams have been Rising Rapidly



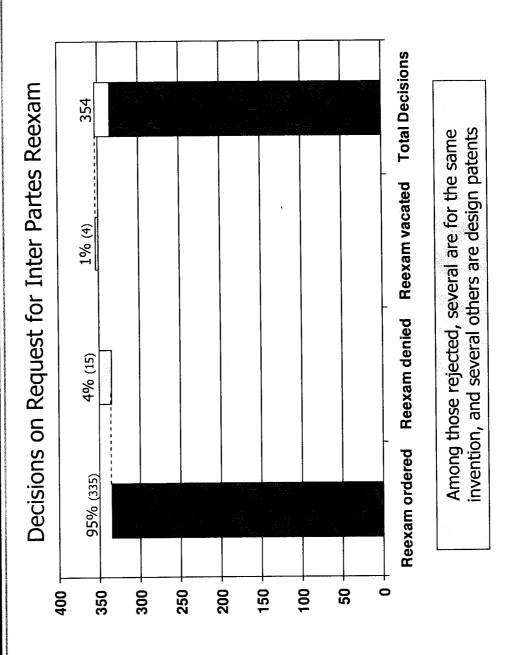


Note: Reexam requests are based on calendar years rather than fiscal years as generally reported by the USPTO Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis (1) Actual through 4/16/2008, Forecast equals (108 days/365 days) X 44 reexam requests to date

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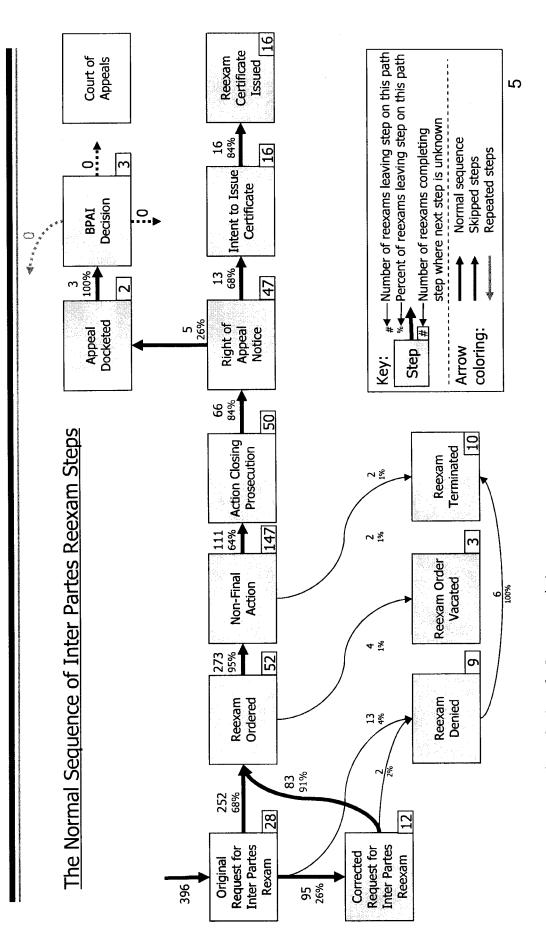
# Partes Reexamination are Granted Virtually all Requests for Inter





Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

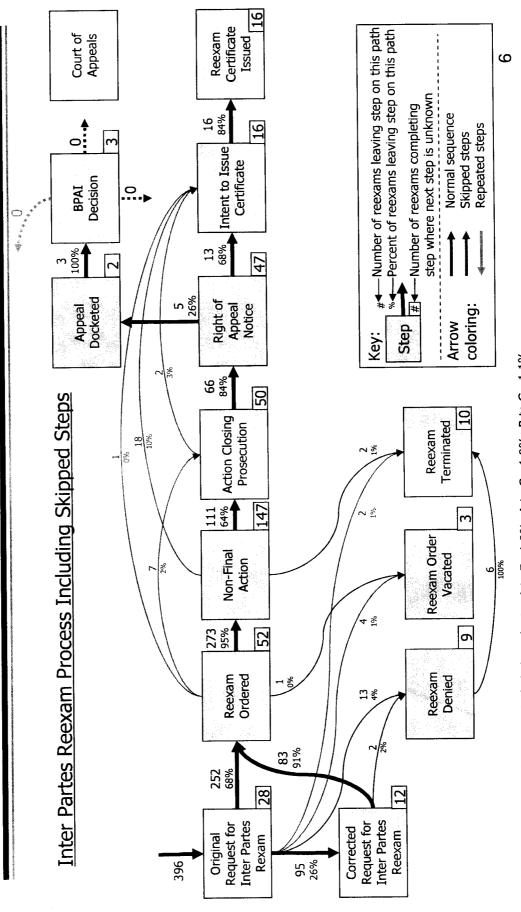
## Most Cases Follow the Main Sequence through INSTITUTE Proceeding. the USPTO Inter Partes Reexamination Process All Inter Partes Reexams through April 16, 2008



Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

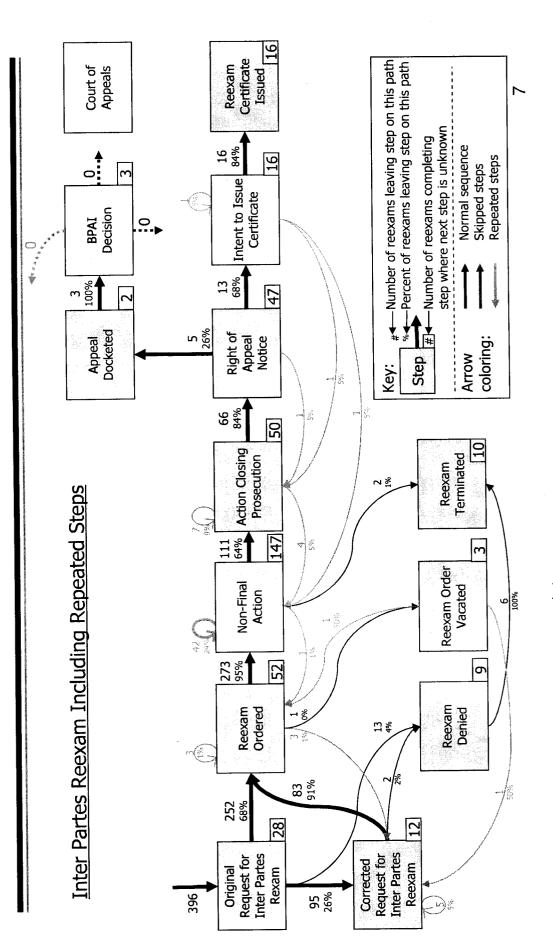
## Generally Due to Patent Holder Non Responsiveness Some Cases Skip Steps... All Inter Partes Reexams through April 16, 2008





Note: Three other paths are not included on chart – A to F - 1,0%; A to G - 1,0%; B to G - 1,1% Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

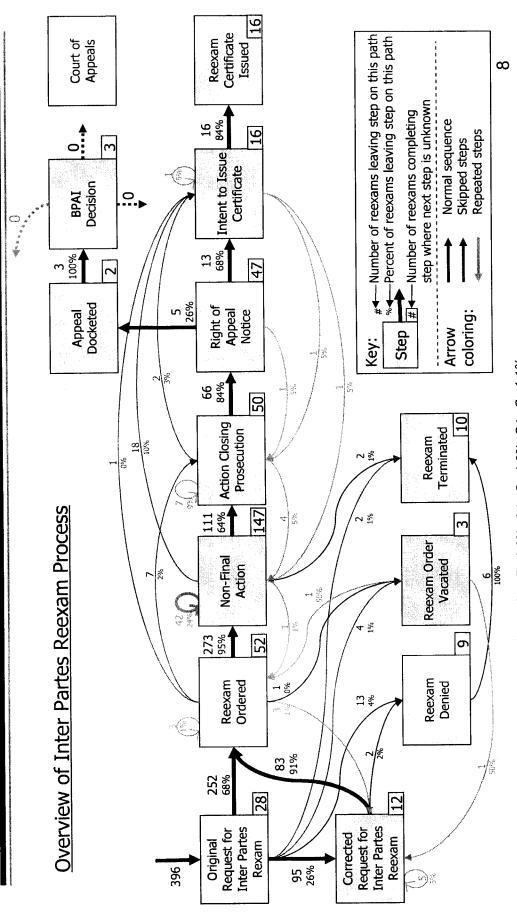
## ...Other Cases Repeat Steps Multiple Times All Inter Partes Reexams through April 16, 2008



Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

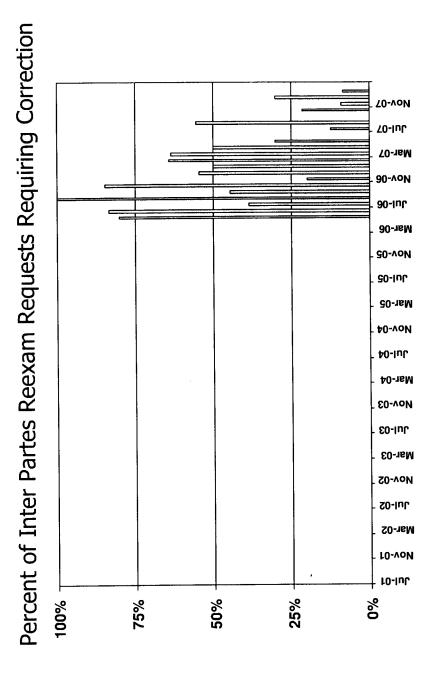
## JSPTO Inter Partes Reexamination Process All Inter Partes Reexams through April 16, 2008 Flow of Cases through the

INSTITUTE FORTHESS



Note: Three other paths are not included on chart – A to F - 1,0%; A to G - 1,0%; B to G - 1,1% Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

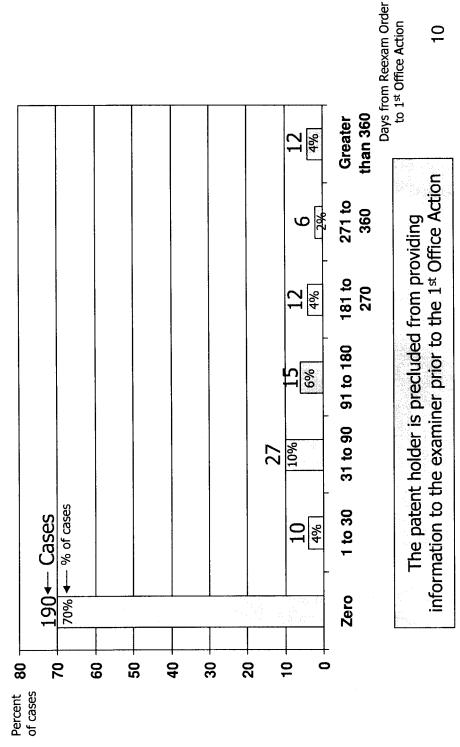
# Correction of Inter Partes Reexam Requests $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{NSTITUTE}}$ Jumped in 2006, and has Subsided Since



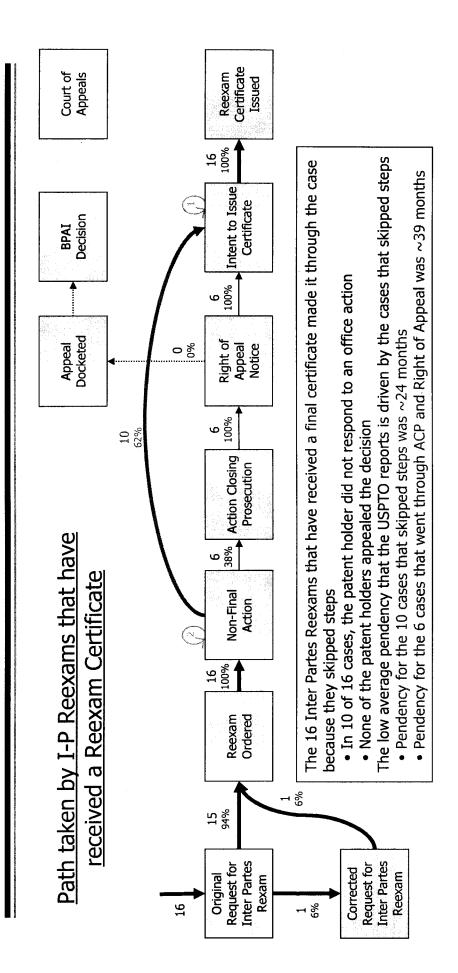
Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

## いののではいめ Action on the Same Day as the Reexam is Ordered Seventy Percent of IPREs receive a 1st Office









Note: The 16 cases here include all cases receiving a Reexam Certificate through April 16, 2008. The most recent data published by the USPTO includes only 12 cases through the end of their fiscal year (9/30/2007). The average pendency of these 16 cases is slightly longer (30.1 months) than the USPTO's statistic based on

#←—Number of reexams leaving step on this path

Normal sequence

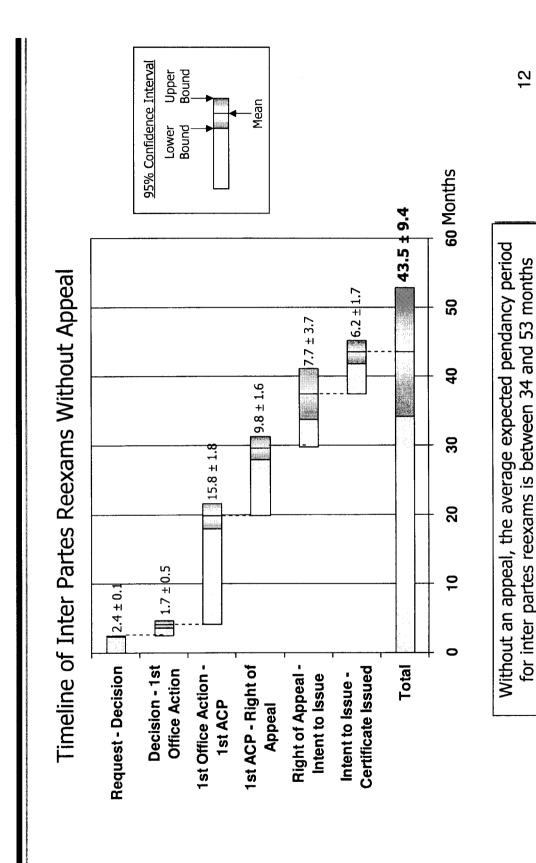
Skipped steps

Arrow coloring:

Step

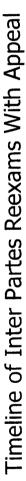
Key:

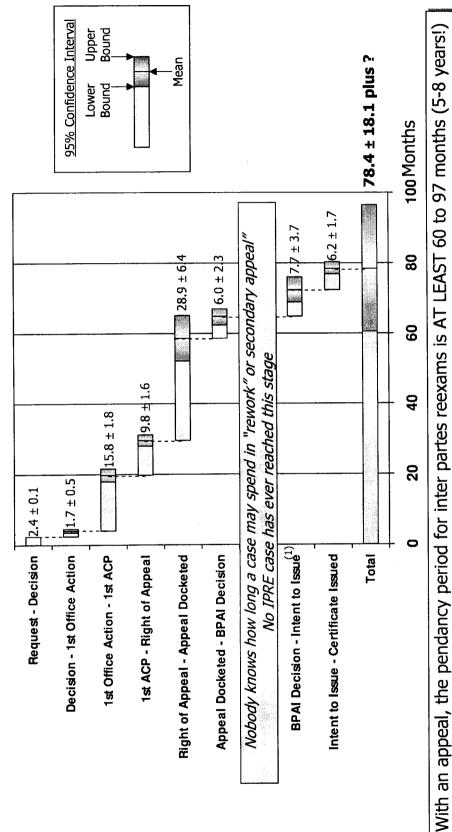
# Programm the USPTO's 28.5 Months – even without an appeal The Normal IPRE Process Takes Much Longer than



## This Estimate Dos Not Include "Rework" and Secondary Appeals $^{ m J}$ With an Appeal, the IPRE Process Takes at least Five to Eight Years







and that doesn't include "rework" after an appeal or secondary appeals

(1) Assumes the same time from BPAI Decision – Intent to Issue as for Right of Appeal – Intent to Issue Source: USPTO PAIR Database; Institute for Progress analysis

# How Far Have the Inter Partes Reexams Gotten? Where Does the Work-In-Process Sit?

All Inter Partes Reexams through April 16, 2008

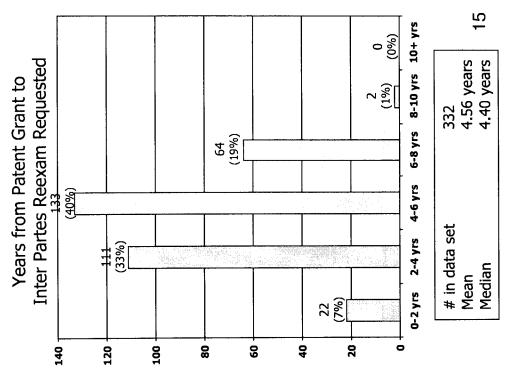
IPRE Cases by Year of Original Request and Last Step COMPLETED

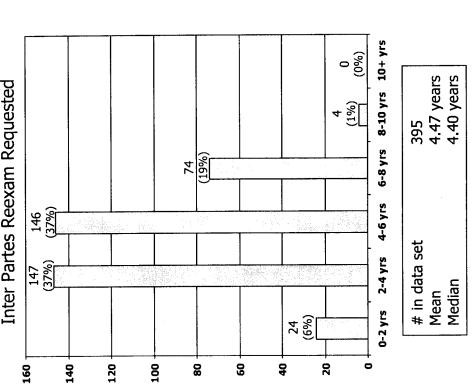
Court of Appeals		Reexam Certificate Issued	(01 – 2 (02 – 1 (03 – 2 (04 – 5 (05 – 3 (06 – 3 Tot – 16	
BPA[ Decision	'02 – 1 '03 – 2 Tot – 3	Intent to Issue Certificate	'03 - 4 '04 - 2 '05 - 3 '06 - 4 '07 - 3 Tot - 16	
Appeal Docketed	.03 - 2 Tot - 2	Right of Appeal Notice	'02 - 3 '03 - 8 '04 - 14 '05 - 13 '06 - 7 '07 - 2 Tot - 47	
(02 – 1	0.5 - 2 $0.04 - 6$ $0.05 - 10$ $0.06 - 22$ $0.07 - 9$ $0.07 - 9$	Action Closing Prosecution	'05 - 3 '06 - 4 '07 - 3 Tot - 10	Reexam Terminated
1	04 - 10 05 - 11 '06 - 40 '07 - 72 '08 - 12 Tot - 147	Non-Final Action	'03 - 2 '07 - 1 Tot - 3	Reexam Order Vacated
	'05 - 2 '06 - 12 '07 - 34 '08 - 4 Tot - 57	Reexam	'05 - 3 '07 - 6 Tot - 9	Reexam Denied
	$\frac{07-5}{08-23}$	Original Request for Inter Partes Rexam	Corrected Request for Inter Partes Reexam	(07 - 7) (08 - 5) (08 - 5)

## Partes Reexam are fairly young Patents that go through Inter

Years from Patent Grant to







Source: USPTO PAIR database, Grant Dates from Micropatent, Institute for Progress analysis

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# About the authors

Mark Blaxill and Ralph Eckardt are founding Fellows of the Institute for Progress, and authors of the upcoming book The Invisible Edge: Taking Your Strategy to the Next Level Using Intellectual Property (Portfolio, March 2009). They are managing partners of 3LP Advisors, an investment advisory firm focused on intellectual property transactions. Blaxill is a former vice president of The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and was head of its Strategy practice initiative. Eckardt is the former head of BCG's Intellectual Property Strategy practice.

## **EXHIBIT I**



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspfo.gov

# Ex Parte Reexamination Filing Data - March 31, 2009

98931	36% 62% 2%	29% 34% 35% 2%		YTD	30%	9525	92%	
	3603 6125 165	2873 3404 3456 160		F1scal Yr. No. 2005 524 2006 511 2007 643 2008 680 2009 308 YJ	2992		8754	8641 113
xam on 07/01/81.			,	1997 376 1997 376 1998 350 2000 318 2001 296 2002 272 2003 392 2004 441				
tart of <i>ex parte</i> ree	public ssioner	pline		1989 243 1980 297 1990 297 1991 307 1992 392 1994 379 1995 392	igation			stition)
Total requests filed since start of ex parte reexam on 07/01/81	<ul><li>a. By patent owner</li><li>b. By other member of public</li><li>c. By order of Commissioner</li></ul>	Number of filings by discipline a. Chemical Operation b. Electrical Operation c. Mechanical Operation d. Design Patents	x Parte Reexai	FISCAL YF. NO. F18 1981 78 (3 mos.) 1 1982 187 1 1983 186 1 1984 189 1 1985 230 1 1986 232 1 1987 240 1 1988 268 1	Number known to be in litigation	Decisions on requests	No. granted	<ul><li>(1) By examiner</li><li>(2) By Director (on petition)</li></ul>
1. To		Ž	3. A <sub>1</sub>		4. Ž	5. De	.ea	

(1) By eveniner

6.	То	tal examiner denials (includes denial	s reserved by	Director)		849
		Patent owner requester Third party requester			444 405	52% 48%
7.	Ov	verall reexamination pendency (Filing	g date to certi	ficate issue da	te)	
	a. b.	Average pendency Median pendency			24.8 (mos.) 19.3 (mos.)	
8.	Red	exam certificate claim analysis:	Owner <u>Requester</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Requester	Comm'r Initiated	<u>Overall</u>
	a. b. c.	All claims confirmed All claims cancelled Claims changes	22% 8% 70%	27% 13% 60%	12% 21% 67%	25% 11% 64%
9.	Tot	tal ex parte reexamination certificates	s issued (1981	l – present)		6743
	a. b. c.	Certificates with all claims confirm Certificates with all claims canceled Certificates with claims changes			1681 756 4306	25% 11% 64%
10.	Re	exam claim analysis – requester is p	atent owner o	r 3 <sup>rd</sup> party; or	Comm'r initiat	ed.
	a.	Certificates – PATENT OWNER R	EQUESTER	•••••		2790
		<ol> <li>All claims confirmed</li> <li>All claims canceled</li> <li>Claim changes</li> </ol>			619 228 1943	22% 8% 70%
	b.	Certificates – 3 <sup>rd</sup> PARTY REQUES	STER	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	3806
		<ol> <li>All claims confirmed</li> <li>All claims canceled</li> <li>Claim changes</li> </ol>			1044 497 2265	27% 13% 60%
	c.	Certificates – COMM'R INITIATE	D REEXAM	•••••	•••••	147
		<ol> <li>All claims confirmed</li> <li>All claims canceled</li> <li>Claim changes</li> </ol>			18 31 98	12% 21% 67%

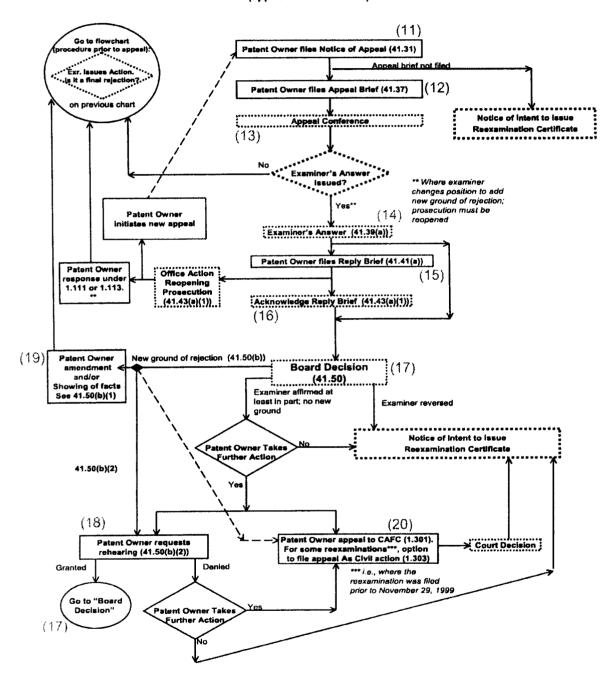
## EXHIBIT J

\*\*>

## Ex Parte Reexamination - PROCEDURE PRIOR TO APPEAL (applicable rule section) (1) Request for Reexamination filed (1.510) Published in O.G. (1.11(c)) (2) Substantial (1.515(a)) Petition Filed Under 1.515(c)? is denied New Question? Yes Na Reexamination ordered (1.525) (3) Reexamination is Terminated Petitio Petition Patent own Pat. owner statement (1.530(b) & (c)) (4) Requester petition to Director of the Office to review whether a substantial new question exists (1.515(c)) statement? New examine assigned Requests reply ? Third party requester reply (1.535) (5) at raview conducted (6)at each stage of examination. Examiner issues Office action (1.104) other than for non-merits actions such as notices of informality •, Patentable or incomplete respons Patent owner responds to Office action 1 Appeal conference is Notice of Intent to Issue panel review prior to Examiner's Answer Reexamination Certificate Patent Owner response after non-final action (1.111) (7) Examiner Issues action. rejection ? Rejection Examiner issues final rejection (1.113) ; (8) Pat. Owner paper after final rejection (1.116) (9) After Final Examiner considers the paper (1.116) (10) Examiner reopens Prosecution? Yes No

Patent Owner files Notice of Appeal (41.31) (11)

## Ex Parte Reexamination – PROCEDURE FROM TIME OF APPEAL (applicable rule section)



## **EXHIBIT K**

## EX PARTE REEXAMINATION TIME LINE (USE WITH MPEP FLOWCHART)

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	
1.	Request for Reexamination filed	37 CFR § 1.510 Request for ex parte reexamination.	3
2.	Notice of request Published in Official Gazette	37 CFR § 1.11 Files open to the public.	
3.	Reexamination ordered	37 CFR § 1.525 Order for ex parte reexamination.	
4.	Patent Owner statement	37 CFR § 1.530 Statement by patent owner in ex parte reexamination; amendment by patent owner in ex parte reexamination.	2 i
		(b) The order for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination will set a period of not less than two months from the date of the order within which the patent owner may file a statement on the new question of patentability, including any proposed amendments the patent owner wishes to make.	
5.	Third Party Requester reply	37 CFR § 1.535 Reply by third party requester in ex parte reexamination.  A reply to the patent owner's statement under § 1.530 may be filed by the ex parte reexamination requester within two months from the date of service of the patent owner's statement. Any reply by the ex parte requester must be served upon the patent owner in accordance with § 1.248. If the patent owner does not file a statement under § 1.530, no reply or other submission from the ex parte reexamination requester will be considered.	wi ser ov
6.	Examiner issues Office Action	37 CFR § 1.104 Nature of examination.	tin (ca ye

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relovant Statute or Rules	Time Period
7.	Patent Owner response after non-final action	proceedings.  (b) The patent owner in an ex parte reexamination proceeding will be given at least thirty days to respond to any Office action. In response to any rejection, such response may include further statements and/or proposed amendments or new claims to place the patent in a condition where all claims, if amended as proposed, would be patentable.  (c) The time for taking any action by a patent owner in an ex parte reexamination proceeding will be extended only for sufficient cause and for a reasonable time specified. Any request for such extension must be filed on or before the day on which action by the patent owner is due, but in no case will the mere filing of a request effect any extension. Any request for such extension must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(g).  (d) If the patent owner fails to file a timely and appropriate response to any Office action or any written statement of an interview required under § 1.560(b), the prosecution in the exparte reexamination proceeding will be a terminated prosecution, and the Director will proceed to issue and publish a certificate concluding the reexamination proceeding under § 1.570 in accordance with the last action of the Office.	30 days – 6 months
<b>∞</b>	Examiner issues final rejection	37 CFR § 1.113 Final rejection or action.	time period varies (can be over one year)
·6	Patent Owner paper after final rejection	MPEP § 2272.I The statutory period for response to a final rejection in a reexamination proceeding will normally be two (2) months. If a response to the final rejection is filed, the time period set in the final rejection continues to run. The time period is	within 2 months of final rejection

Step No.	Step in <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		automatically extended by 1 month (in accordance with the guidelines set forth in MPEP § 2265) if the response is the first response after the final rejection and a notice of appeal has not yet been filed. Any advisory Office action using form PTOL-467, Ex Parte Reexamination Advisory Action Before the Filing of an	·
		Appeal Brief, which is issued in reply to patent owner's response after final rejection (and prior to the filing of the notice of appeal) will inform the patent owner of the automatic 1 month extension of time. It should be noted that the filing of any timely first	
		response to a final rejection (even an informal response or even a response that is not signed) will automatically result in the extension of the shortened statutory period for an additional month. Note further that the patent owner is entitled to know the	
		examiner's ruling on a timely response filed after final rejection before being required to file a notice of appeal. Notification of the examiner's ruling should reach the patent owner with sufficient time for the patent owner to consider the ruling and act on it. Accordingly, the period for response to the final rejection should	
		be appropriately extended in the examiner's advisory action. See Theodore Groz & Sohne & Ernst Bechert Nadelfabrik KG v. Quigg, 10 USPQ2d 1787 (D.D.C. 1988). The period for response may not, however, be extended to run past 6 months from the date of the final rejection.	
		MPEP § 2272.II The practice of giving the patent owner a time period to supply an omission in a bona fide response (as set forth in MPEP § 2266.01) does not apply after a final Office action. If a bona fide response to an examiner's action is filed after final rejection (before the expiration of the permissible response period), but through an apparent oversight or inadvertence, some point page 2272.11	

Time Period	time period varies	within 2-6 months
Relevant Statute or Rules should not issue (to the patent owner) a notice of failure to fully respond. Rather, an advisory Office action (form PTOL-467) should be issued with an explanation of the omission.	37 CFR § 1.116 Amendments and affidavits or other evidence after final action and prior to appeal.	37 CFR § 41.31 Appeal to Board.  (3) Every owner of a patent under ex parte reexamination filed under § 1.510 of this title on or after November 29, 1999, any of whose claims has been finally (§ 1.113 of this title) rejected, may appeal from the decision of the examiner to the Board by filing a notice of appeal accompanied by the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(1) within the time period provided under § 1.134 of this title for reply.  37 CFR § 1.134 Time period for reply to an Office action. An Office action will notify the applicant of any non-statutory or shortened statutory time period set for reply to an Office action. Unless the applicant is notified in writing that a reply is required in less than six months, a maximum period of six months is allowed.  MPEP § 2273 Appeal in Ex Parte Reexamination  The period for filing the notice of appeal is the period set for response in the last Office action which is normally 2 months. The timely filing of a first response to a final rejection having a shortened statutory period for response an additional month,
Step in Ex Parte Reexam BlowChart	Examiner considers the paper and may reopen prosecution; Patent Owner may submit amendments, affidavits and other evidence after final Office Action and prior to appeal	[if Examiner does not reopen prosecution –] Patent Owner files Notice of Appeal
See 16	10.	

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statiste or Rules	Time Period
		even if an extension has been previously granted, as long as the period for response does not exceed 6 months from the date of the final rejection. The normal ex parte appeal procedures set forth at 37 CFR § 41.31 through 37 CFR § 41.54 apply in ex parte reexamination, except as pointed out in this Chapter. A third party requester may not appeal or otherwise participate in the appeal.	
12.	Patent Owner files Appeal Brief	37 CFR § 41.37 Appeal brief.  (a)(1) Appellant must file a brief under this section within two Motion months from the date of filing the notice of appeal under § 41.31. The but example of the control o	within 2 months of Notice of Appeal, but extendable under 1.550(c).
		(e) The time periods set forth in this section are extendable under the provisions of § 1.136 of this title for patent applications and § 1.550(c) of this title for ex parte reexamination proceedings.	
		37 CFR § 1.550 Conduct of ex parte reexamination proceedings.	
		(c) The time for taking any action by a patent owner in an ex parte reexamination proceeding will be extended only for sufficient cause and for a reasonable time specified. Any request for such	
		extension must be filed on or before the day on which action by the patent owner is due, but in no case will the mere filing of a	•
		request effect any extension. Any request for such extension must be accompanied by the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(g). See §	
		1.304(a) for extensions of time for filing a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or for commencing a civil action.	Marin de de la comunicación de la c
		MPEP 2274.III. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF	
		In the event that the patent owner finds that he or she is unable to file a brief within the time allowed by the rules, he or she may file	

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		a petition with the appropriate extension of time fee, to the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU) or Technology Center (TC), requesting additional time (usually 1 month), and give reasons for the request. The petition should contain the address to which the response is to be sent. If sufficient cause is shown and the petition is filed prior to the expiration of the period sought to be extended (37 CFR 1.550(c)), the CRU or TC Director is authorized to grant the extension for up to 1 month. Requests for extensions of time for more than 1 month will also be decided by the CRU or TC Director, but will not be granted unless extraordinary circumstances are involved; e.g., death or incapacitation of the patent owner. The time extended is added to the last calendar day of the original period, as opposed to being added to the day it would have been due when said last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.	
13.	Appeal Conference		time period varies
14.	[if examiner does not change position to add new ground of rejection]  Examiner's Answer	(a)(1) The primary examiner may, within such time as may be directed by the Director, furnish a written answer to the appeal brief including such explanation of the invention claimed and of the references relied upon and grounds of rejection as may be necessary, supplying a copy to appellant. If the primary examiner determines that the appeal does not comply with the provisions of §§ 41.31 and 41.37 or does not relate to an appealable action, the primary examiner shall make such determination of record.	time period varies (can range from two months to over a year)
15.	Patent Owner files Reply Brief	37 CFR § 41.41 Reply brief. (a)(1) Appellant may file a reply brief to an examiner's answer within two months from the date of the examiner's answer.	within 2 months of Examiner's Answer, extendable for good cause

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
		(c) Extensions of time under § 1.136 (a) of this title for patent applications are not applicable to the time period set forth in this section. See § 1.136 (b) of this title for extensions of time to reply for patent applications and § 1.550 (c) of this title for extensions of time to reply for ex parte reexamination proceedings.	shown
16.	[if Examiner still does not reopen prosecution—] Acknowledge Reply Brief	37 CFR § 41.43 Examiner's response to reply brief.  (a)(1) After receipt of a reply brief in compliance with § 41.41, the primary examiner must acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief. In addition, the primary examiner may withdraw the final rejection and reopen prosecution or may furnish a supplemental examiner's answer responding to any new issue raised in the reply brief.	time period varies
17.	Request for Oral Hearing (not shown in flow chart)	37 CFR § 41.47	within 2 months after Examiner's Answer or Supplemental Examiner's Answer
18.	Oral Hearing Before BPAI (not shown in flow chart)	37 CFR § 41.47	timing varies; typically within 6- 12 months after filing of request for oral hearing
19.	Board Decision The Board may: (1) affirm the Examiner's decision (2) reverse the Examiner's decision	37 CFR § 41.50 Decisions and other actions by the Board.	time period varies

Time Period			the Board.  Inds not involved hay include in its so for so holding, rejection of the s paragraph shall the Board makes two months from he following two eding be reheard cord. The request of rejection and it to have been the new ground of which rehearing which rehearing has included in the have been the new ground of which rehearing has included in the have been the new ground of which rehearing has included in the have been the new ground of the new ground o	the Board. Within 2 months of unds not involved Board Decision nay include in its
Relevant Statute or Rules			37 CFR § 41.50 Decisions and other actions by the Board.  (b) Should the Board have knowledge of any grounds not involved in the appeal for rejecting any pending claim, it may include in its opinion a statement to that effect with its reasons for so holding, which statement constitutes a new ground of rejection of the claim. A new ground of rejection pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered final for judicial review. When the Board makes a new ground of rejection, the appellant, within two months from the date of the decision, must exercise one of the following two options with respect to the new ground of rejection to avoid termination of the appeal as to the rejected claims:  (2) Request rehearing. Request that the proceeding be reheard under § 41.52 by the Board upon the same record. The request for rehearing must address any new ground of rejection and state with particularity the points believed to have been misapprehended or overlooked in entering the new ground of rejection and also state all other grounds upon which rehearing is sought.	37 CFR § 41.50 Decisions and other actions by the Board. (b) Should the Board have knowledge of any grounds not involved in the appeal for rejecting any pending claim, it may include in its
Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	(3) remand the proceeding to the Examiner for further consideration; or (4) provide a new ground of rejection	[if Board Decision is adverse to Patent Owner]	Patent Owner requests rehearing [Loop back to Board Decision]	OR Patent Owner Amendment and/or
Step No.			20.	21.

Step No.	Step in <i>Ex Parte</i> Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules	Time Period
	evidence	which statement constitutes a new ground of rejection of the claim. A new ground of rejection pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered final for judicial review. When the Board makes a new ground of rejection, the appellant, within two months from the date of the decision, must exercise one of the following two options with respect to the new ground of rejection to avoid termination of the appeal as to the rejected claims:  (1) Reopen prosecution. Submit an appropriate amendment of the claims so rejected or new evidence relating to the claims so rejected, or both, and have the matter reconsidered by the examiner, in which event the proceeding will be remanded to the examiner. The new ground of rejection is binding upon the examiner unless an amendment or new evidence not previously of record is made which, in the opinion of the examiner, overcomes the new ground of rejection stated in the decision. Should the examiner reject the claims, appellant may again appeal to the Board pursuant to this subpart.	
22.	OR  Patent Owner appeals to Federal Circuit [Reexam Certificate issues only upon Court Decision]	d in any ex parte lissatisfied with the erferences, and any sision of the Board I to the U.S. Court at must take the latent and all directed to the hild a copy of the ovided by the rules third party lings filed under §	Within 2 months of Board Decision

Time Period					A	
Relevant Statute or Rules 1.913, § 1.983 is controlling.	37 CFR § 1.304 Time for appeal or civil action. (a)(1) The time for filing the notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (§ 1.302) or for commencing a civil action (§ 1.303) is two months from the date of the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. If a request for	rehearing or reconsideration of the decision is filed within the time period provided under § 41.52(a), § 41.79(a), or § 41.127(d) of this title, the time for filing an appeal or commencing a civil action shall expire two months after action on the request. In contested cases before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the	time for filing a cross-appeal or cross-action expires:  (i) Fourteen days after service of the notice of appeal or the summons and complaint; or  (ii) Two months after the date of decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, whichever is later	(2) The time periods set forth in this section are not subject to the provisions of § 1.136, § 1.550(c), or § 1.956, or of § 41.4 of this title.  (3) The Director may extend the time for filing an appeal or	commencing a civil action:  (i) For good cause shown if requested in writing before the expiration of the period for filing an appeal or commencing a civil action, or  (ii) Upon written request after the expiration of the period for	filing an appeal or commencing a civil action upon a showing that the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect.  (b) The times specified in this section in days are calendar days. The time specified herein in months are calendar months except that one day shall be added to any two-month period which
Step in Ex Paric Region FlowChart						
Step No.						

Step No.	Step in Ex Parte Reexam FlowChart	Relevant Statute or Rules
		includes February 28. If the last day of the time specified for appeal or commencing a civil action falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday in the District of Columbia, the time is extended to the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday nor a Federal holiday.
		MPEP § 2279 Appeal to Courts
		In an ex parte reexamination filed on or after November 29, 1999, the patent owner may appeal the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences only to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 141. This is based on the current version of 35 U.S.C. 141 and 35 U.S.C. 145 as they were amended by Public Law 106-113. This "current version" of 35 U.S.C. 141 and 35 U.S.C. 145 applies to appeals in reexamination, where the reexamination was filed in the Office on or after November 29, 1999. See Section 13202(d) of Public Law 107-273.
		A third party requester of an ex parte reexamination may not seek judicial review. Yuasa Battery v. Comm'r, 3 USPQ2d 1143 (D.D.C. 1987).
		While the reexamination statutory provisions do not provide for participation by any third party requester during any court review, the courts have permitted intervention by a third party requester in appropriate circumstances. See In re Etter, 756 F.2d 852, 225 USPQ 1 (Fed. Cir. 1985) and Reed v. Quigg, 230 USPQ 62 (D.D.C. 1986). See also MPEP § 1216, § 1216.01, and § 1216.02. A third party requester who is permitted to intervene in a civil
		action has no standing to appeal the court's decision, Boeing Co. v.

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